THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, 12th December 1952.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, Madras, at ten of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUGAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

MR. SPEAKER :—"I want to finish all the questions in half an hour. Then hon. Members will have more time for the discussion of the food situation. Now we will take up question No. 442-A."

SRI K. RAJAGOPALA RAO :—"On a point of order, Sir, ఇవ్వాళటి పత్రికలలోని వార్తలనుబట్టి హైకోర్టువారు యీ సభనుంచి కౌన్సిల్‌కు ఎన్నుకోబడ్డ **24** మంది సభ్యుల ఎన్నికను రద్దుచేస్తూ వుత్తర్వు జారీచేసినట్లు తెలుస్తున్నది. ఆ వుత్తరువు ప్రకారం తన సభ్యత్వాన్ని కోల్పోయిన **Public Works** శాఖామంత్రి గౌరవనీయులు రంగారెడ్డిగారు యిప్పుడు మంత్రిగా వ్యవహరించవచ్చునా? ఆ ఉత్తరువు తమకు అందజేయబడిందా? వారు శాశన సభలో కూర్చోడానికి వీలవుతుందా? ఈ విషయం విశదీకరించవలసిందిగా కోరుతున్నాను."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member says that there is a judgment of the Election Tribunal which has held the election of the 24 Members to the Council by the Members of the Assembly void. He wants to know how Mr. Ranga Reddi . . ."

MR. SPEAKER :—"I am not informed of it at all. I cannot do anything at all now in the matter."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—"Sir, whatever may be the view of the Chair in this matter, the judgment takes effect from the moment it is delivered."

MR. SPEAKER :—"I am not aware of it."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—"Whether the Chair is aware of it or not I am only submitting it as a general point."

MR. SPEAKER :—"Whatever it is I should be informed by the Election Commissioner. Unless I am so informed, I cannot do anything."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—"Sir, I am not submitting anything more than this. So far as the Hon. Mr. Ranga Reddi is concerned I can say he can sit because he holds the appointment by virtue of an order passed by the Governor. That is a different point. You were pleased to say that you should be informed of the judgment for it to take effect. I am only submitting that the judgment takes effect from the moment it is delivered."

MR. SPEAKER :—" As far as the Chair is concerned, the Election Commissioner must inform the Chair of the fact.

" I should also like to invite the attention of the hon. Member to section 107 of the Representation of the People Act—

' 107. *Orders to take effect only on publication*—

" Any order of the Tribunal under section 98 or section 99 shall not take effect until it is published in the *Gazette of India* under section 106." '

Therefore, the order of the Tribunal will have effect only after the publication in the *Gazette of India*."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" I stand corrected, Sir."

Detention system in High Schools.

* 442-A *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) what are the reasons for the re-introduction of the detention system in VI, V and IV forms in High Schools; and

(*b*) whether the Government have received any memorandum regarding the same?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM (on behalf of the Hon. the Minister for Education) :—" (*a*) & (*b*) The answer[a] is necessarily long and I have placed it on the table of the House."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Sir, in view of the fact that there is so much agitation all over the State against this detention system and that this system was introduced by the British Government to check the increase in the number of educated unemployed men, and also in view of the fact that this detention gives a handle to the school authorities to suppress the student movement in this State, will the Hon. Minister be pleased to reconsider the question and totally take away the detention system in the schools? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, this is perhaps the Communist interpretation of the selection examination system. Selection examination is conducted for the purpose of finding out whether a student is fit enough to be sent up for writing the final examination. If it is found that a student is not fit to be sent up, it is no use sending him up for the final examination putting the parents to further expenditure on examination fees, etc. That is why it has now been decided that if it is a hopeless case, the student has got to be detained without sending him up for the examination."

Fixation of salaries of former Pudukkottai elementary school teachers.

* 433 *Q.*—SRI S. SWAYAMPRAKASAM (on behalf of Sri V. Balakrishnan) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the elementary schools in the former Pudukkottai State were full fledged Pudukkottai State Government institutions;

[a] **Printed as Appendix I on pages 790–791 infra.**

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(b) when the schools were transferred to local bodies in Pudukkottai Division;

(c) whether these elementary school teachers have been absorbed in the local bodies service; and if so, on what date; and

(d) whether the Government have reached a decision regarding the fixation of pay, etc., of these teachers for the period from the merger of Pudukkottai with Madras State and the transfer of the schools to local bodies?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM (on behalf of the Hon. the Minister for Education) :—" (a) & (b) It is presumed that the hon. Member refers to the elementary schools maintained by the former Pudukkottai State Government. These schools were maintained by the Pudukkottai State Government and were like any other Pudukkottai Government institutions. The elementary schools situated in the area outside the Pudukkottai municipal limits were transferred to the management of the District Board, Tiruchirappalli, on 14th June 1950. The elementary schools within the Pudukkottai municipal limits were transferred to the management of the Pudukkottai Municipal Council on 1st June 1951.

" (c) The elementary school teachers transferred to the District Board, Tiruchirappalli, were absorbed in District Board Service on 14th June 1950 and those transferred to the Pudukkottai Municipality in the Municipal Service on 1st June 1951.

" (d) Yes, and orders have already been issued."

Schemes included in the supplementary plan of the Planning Commission.

* 444 Q.—SRI T. VISWANATHAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) what schemes have been recommended by the Government of Madras for inclusion in the supplementary plan of the Planning Commission;

(b) what is the date of recommendation; and

(c) whether the copies of the reports accompanying the recommendations will be placed on the table of the House?

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" (a) The following schemes were recommended to the Planning Commission for inclusion in the Supplementary Plan :—

Irrigation.

Krishna–Pennar Stage I.
Vaigai.
Gandikota.
Amaravathy Reservoir.
Kanhirapuzha Reservoir.
Sattanur Project.

Budameru Reservoir.
Krishnagiri Reservoir.
Grow More Food and Minor Irrigation Projects.
Ramapadasagar Stage I.
Tungabhadra High Level Canal.

Power.

Periyar Hydro-Electric Scheme.
Kundah Hydro-Electric Scheme.
Krishna–Pennar Project Stage I.

" (*b*) 13th August 1951 in respect of schemes other than the Tungabhadra High Level Canal Scheme. The High Level Canal Scheme was recommended in February 1952.

" (*c*) The cost and labour involved would be too great."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Next question."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Are there to be no supplementaries on this important question? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" To-day we have three debates. The hon. Member knows it well."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Then in that case I will make it a point to refer to this in the debate."

Selection Committee of the Government Harijan Hostel, Masulipatnam.

10–10 a.m. * 445 *Q.*—SRI M. RAJESWARA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of official and non-official members on the Selection Committee of the Government Harijan Hostel at Masulipatnam; and

(*b*) of the non-official members how many belong to (1) Mala, (2) Madiga and (3) other communities in the year 1952?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM (on behalf of the Hon. the Minister for Education) :—" (*a*) There is no selection committee as such for the Government Hostel at Masulipatnam. The District Harijan Welfare Committee, Krishna, is selecting the boarders for this hostel. There are six official members and seven non-official members in the Krishna District Harijan Welfare Committee.

" (*b*) The communities to which the non-official members of the committee belong are as follows :—

Malas	2
Madigas	Nil
Mala Dasu	2
Kammas	2
Christian	1."

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Starting of a co-operative institute in Malabar.

* 446 Q.—SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Co-operation be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received a memorandum from the Malabar District Co-operative Bank requesting the Government to start a separate co-operative institute in Malabar; and

(b) what action has been taken on the same?

THE HON. SRI D. SANJIVAYYA :—" (a) Yes, Sir.

" (b) The matter has been referred to the Registrar of Co-operative Societies and his report is awaited."

Starting of a co-operative institute in Malabar.

* 447 Q.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Co-operation be pleased to state whether the Government received any memorandum regarding the opening of a separate co-operative training and educational institute in Malabar from the Secretary of the Malabar District Co-operative Bank, dated 3rd November 1952; and if so, what action has been taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI D. SANJIVAYYA :—" The attention of the Member is invited to the answer to Legislative Assembly starred question No. 446."

The Pedanandipad High Level Channel Scheme.

* 448 Q.—SRI K. VENKAIAH: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Public Works Department have examined the Pedanandipad High Level Channel (from Krishna Anicut) Scheme;

(b) whether the Government have received a report on the said scheme from the head of the department; and

(c) if so, when the scheme will be taken up for execution?

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" (a) Yes.

" (b) No.

" (c) Does not arise."

Transfer of officers in the Co-operative department.

* 449 Q.—SRI K. GOVINDA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Co-operation be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any Government Order to the effect that officers in the Co-operative department should be transferred at the end of every three years; and

(b) whether Visakhapatnam district is exempted from this order?

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THE HON. SRI D. SANJIVAYYA :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir. According to these orders executive officers of the Co-operative department including Inspectors of Co-operative Societies should not as a general rule be retained in the same place for more than three years.

" (*b*) No, Sir."

Establishment charges of the Railway Police.

* 450 *Q.*—SRI P. VENKATASUBBIAH : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the establishment charges of the Railway Police are met from the State Funds; and

(*b*) if the answer to clause (*a*) is in the affirmative, whether the Central Government are giving any percentage of their revenues from the Railways to this State?

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (*b*) The Central Government are not giving any percentage of their revenues from the Railways to this Government. They are giving the actual cost of the ' order police ' and one-fourth of the cost of the supervising staff from the revenues of the Railways to this State. The actual cost of the Armed Guards provided for cash chests of pay clerks of Railways is also recovered from the Government of India. In addition they are giving a contribution of Rs. 20,000 per annum towards the cost of Crime Police in respect of railway lines passing through the former Indian States."

Third language test for Health Inspectors.

* 451 *Q.*—SRI M. RAJESWARA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Health Inspectors are required to pass the third language test; and

(*b*) whether there are any standing orders to stop the increments of Health Inspectors so long as they do not pass the third language test?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) If the implication of the question is that the Health Inspector has to pass tests in three languages, the answer is in the negative.

" The position however is as follows :—

Before the 1st January 1951 a Health Inspector had to pass the second-class language test, Parts A and B in any two of the following languages, namely :—

Tamil,
Telugu,
Malayalam.
Kannada, and
Hindustani.

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In practice, persons whose mother-tongue happened to be one of the five languages referred to above are exempted from passing a test in their mother-tongue and they have to pass only one language test.

Under the same rule a Health Inspector whose mother-tongue is Tamil or Malayalam, has to pass the test in Telugu or Kannada. As Tamil and Telugu are the two principal languages of the State, the rules were amended with effect from 1st January 1951 so as to require a Health Inspector whose mother-tongue is neither Tamil nor Telugu to pass the test in one of the two languages. This rule applies to persons who commenced their probation on or after the 1st January 1951. Those who commenced their probation before the 1st January 1951 are governed by the old rules.

"(b) An officer has to pass all the prescribed tests within the period of probation and unless he passes the test he is not entitled to increments. This is a rule applicable to all the Services and not merely to the Health Inspectors."

Increase in the number of Government buses in Madras City.

* 452 Q.—SRI P. JEEVANANDAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to increase the number of buses plying in the Madras City?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—"Yes, Sir, but the matter is being examined."

Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries.

* 453 Q.—SRI V. K. RAMASWAMY MUDALIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries opened every year during the last three years;

(b) the action taken by the Government with regard to answers received on the questionnaire issued by the Animal **Husbandry** department;

(c) the number of livestock farms which are now in the State and the total number of stud-bulls issued every year for rural live-stock improvement work breedwar for the last three years; and

(d) the number of Artificial Insemination Centres which are now in the State?

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—"(a) The number of Veterinary hospitals and dispensaries opened during the last three years is—

Year.	Number opened.
1949–50	4
1950–51	Nil.
1951–52	3

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" (b) The answers received on the questionnaire are being compiled and scrutinized by the Director of Animal Husbandry and his report in the matter is awaited.

" (c) There are 7 Livestock Breeding Farms in this State. The total number of bulls issued for the rural livestock improvement work is—

Breed.	1949–50.	1950–51.	1951–52.
1 Kangayam ..	36	9	10
2 Sindhi ..	11	24	13
3 Hallikar ..	18	18	7
4 Ongole ..	36	15	20
5 Murrah ..	4	2	12
6 Gir	..	..	1
Total ..	105	68	63

" (d) There are 5 Artificial Insemination Centres in this State in addition to seven Key farms centres established in Government Livestock Farms where artificial insemination of cattle is done."

Sri K. Vinayakam :—" I want to put a supplementary question, Sir. I want to know what this artificial insemination is." (Laughter.)

Mr. Speaker :—" I have no time to allow supplementaries. The hon. Member is at liberty to put a separate question."

Repairs to the Krishna Anicut.

* 454 Q.—Sri M. Hanumantha Rao : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) the extent of the damage done to the Krishna Anicut at Viyayavada;

(b) the total cost of the temporary repairs undertaken up to now; and

(c) what are the proposals for permanent repairs?

The Hon. Sri N. Ranga Reddi :—" (a) & (c) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the report of the Krishna Anicut Enquiry Committee.

" (b) About Rs. 5·0 lakhs."

Rewards to the warders who took part in the shooting in Salem Jail.

* 455 Q.—Sri P. K. Gopalakrishnan : Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to state whether the Government gave any reward to the warders responsible for Salem Jail firing and if so, what?

The Hon. Sri K. P. Kuttikrishnan Nair :—" Government do not consider it advisable in the public interest to discuss rewards given to jail or police officials or publish them, other than decorations and medals publicly conferred."

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Rewards for those who took part in the shooting in Salem Jail.

* 456 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the officers alleged to be responsible for shooting in Salem Jail were rewarded by the Government, and if so, who and with what amount?

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" Government do not consider it advisable in the public interest to discuss rewards given to jail or police officials or publish them, other than decorations and medals publicly conferred."

Rewards to those who took part in the shooting in Salem Jail in 1950.

* 457 *Q.*—SRI K. V. RAMASWAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to state whether the Government have given any rewards to those who were responsible for the firing, and to those who actually shot down the Communist prisoners in Salem Jail in February 1950?

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" The hon. Member is referred to the answers given to similar Legislative Assembly Questions Nos. 455 and 456."

Persons retrenched owing to abolition of controls.

* 458 *Q.*—SRI P. SYAMASUNDARA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many persons have been thrown out of employment by the abolition of controls ; and

(*b*) whether the Government have provided them with any other employment?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) The information required has already been furnished with reference to another question answered on the floor of the Assembly. The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the statement placed on the table of the Assembly with reference to Starred Question No. 213, answered on 2nd December 1952.

" (*b*) The steps which the Government have taken to provide employment to this class of people and the several concessions given to them have already been indicated in the answer to Starred Question No. 214 which was answered on the floor of the Assembly on 2nd December 1952."

Amalgamation of Visakhapatnam and Srikakulam districts.

* 459 *Q.*—SRI P. PUNDARIKAKSHACHARYULU (on behalf of Sri G. Latchanna) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state whether the Government are contemplating to re-amalgamate both Visakhapatnam and Srikakulam districts into one district; and if the answer is in the affirmative, the reasons therefor?

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THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" The Government have no proposals for the amalgamation of the two districts. The Government are unable to build separate offices at Srikakulam this year owing to financial stringency, and the misconception may have arisen owing to this decision."

Protection to the fruit and vegetable gardens in Cuddapah district.

* 460 *Q*.—SRI P. NARASIMHA REDDI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the District Food Production Advisory Committee, Cuddapah, requested the Government to protect the fruit and vegetable gardens and crops from monkey, flying fox and bird menace by destroying them;

(*b*) whether the Entomologist to the Government made any suggestions to destroy these pests; and

(*c*) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—" (*a*) At its meeting held on 31st October 1952, the Cuddapah District Food Production Committee resolved to address the Government to send parties for catching monkeys and sending them to other countries. The resolution was forwarded to Government on 9th December 1952 by the Collector.

" (*b*) The Government Entomologist, Coimbatore, has suggested to the local District Agricultural Officer certain methods for the control of monkeys, like trapping, shooting and catching and sterilizing. None of these is practicable. As regards bird menace, he has suggested that indigenous methods could be relied upon."

" (*c*) The matter is under examination."

Distribution of gifts from Russian and Chinese people.

* 461 *Q*.—SRI G. YELLAMANDA REDDY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the gifts of rice, wheat, money, etc., offered by Russian and Chinese people for famine relief are being distributed by the Government departmentally or through the Red-Cross Society in this State; and

(*b*) if so, how many gruel centres and other relief works are run by the Red-Cross Society in Nellore district?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" (*a*) The distributing organization is the Indian Red-Cross Society and stocks are received by the Collector and used in the gruel centres.

" (*b*) The Red-Cross Society is not running any gruel centres or other relief works in the Nellore district."

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Sri K. SUBBA REDDI :—" ఆర్యా, ప్రభుత్వమువారు ఈ ప్రశ్నను బాగుగా అర్థముచేసుకొని సమాధానము ఇవ్వవలెనని కోరుచున్నాను.

" రష్యా, చైనాలనుండి వచ్చిన ధాన్యము మా తాలూకాకు కొంతవచ్చినది. ఆ ధాన్యము ఇక్కడఉన్న 13 gruel centres కు రెండు నెలలకు సరిపోతుంది. ఇప్పుడు అధికారులు తలా 4 మానికలు ఒకే రోజున పంపిణీ చేయుటకు నిశ్చయించారు. కనుక దీనిని పునరాలోచించి gruel centres కు ఎక్కువ ధాన్యము సప్లయిచేయడానికి అవకాశము కలుగజేస్తారా ? "

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" The Russian and Chinese grains may have more propaganda value but not more nutrition value."

The Krishna Co-operative Central Bank, Machilipatnam.

* 462 *Q.*—Sri G. ANJANEYULU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Co-operation be pleased to state whether the Government have received any reports on the administration of the Krishna Co-operative Central Bank, Machilipatnam, Krishna district, from any of the local leaders and village co-operative societies and if so, what steps the Government have taken in the matter? 10-20 a.m.

The Hon. Sri D. SANJIVAYYA :—" Some representations on the working of the Krishna Co-operative Central Bank, Machilipatnam, were received from two gentlemen of Machilipatnam. No representation has been received from any Co-operative Society.

" The Registrar of Co-operative Societies has been directed to enquire into the allegations and submit his report. Necessary action will be taken on the receipt of his report."

Fixation of the price of paddy in Malabar.

* 463 *Q.*—Sri K. C. GOPALAN UNNI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received a memorandum from the M.L.As. of Malabar regarding the difficulties that the tenants of Malabar are facing due to the non-fixation of the price of paddy; and

(*b*) what action the Government have taken on the above?

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" (*a*) Yes. Government have received a memorandum from certain M.L.As. of Malabar and one of the requests therein is that the price at which paddy should be valued for the purpose of paying rent should be fixed at a reasonable level not exceeding the procurement price of paddy which obtained immediately prior to decontrol.

" (*b*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to Legislative Assembly question No. 238 (starred) answered on 3rd December 1952."

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Construction of a bridge across the Muniyeru in Nandigama taluk.

* 464 Q.—SRI V. RAMA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) what is the amount allotted for the construction of a bridge across Muniyeru, Nandigama taluk, in the year 1951–52 and what is the actual expenditure incurred; and

(b) at what stage the work stands now?

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" (a) The amount allotted for the work in the Budget Estimate for 1951–52 was Rs. 2 lakhs. No expenditure was, however, incurred on the work, as the investigation of the work was not completed.

" (b) Rough proposals submitted by the Divisional Engineer (Highways) Designs, for the construction of a submersible bridge at a cost of Rs. 2,20,000, in lieu of the bridge work previously sanctioned, are now under the scrutiny of the Chief Engineer (Highways), and the work will be taken up for execution in due course subject to the availability of funds."

House-rent allowance drawn by Hon. Ministers.

* 465 Q.—SRI Y. V. KRISHNA RAO (on behalf of Sri S. S. Kolkebail) : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) how many Ministers are drawing house-rent allowance while they are having their own houses in the City of Madras; and

(b) if so, the names of such Ministers?

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—"(a) & (b) House allowance is being paid to two of the Ministers, Sri Sethupathi and Dr. U. Krishna Rao.

" The Chief Minister is living in a house belonging to his children but he has also taken on rent another house for additional accommodation.

" The ownership of the house in the occupation of the Minister for Rural Welfare vests in the Construction Society and will continue to be so for nine years more."

Alleged booking of " B " Memoranda in the names of political sufferers in Ongole.

* 466 Q.—SRI K. VENKAIAH : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Sub-Collector, Ongole, issued instructions to his subordinates in the year 1950 that the " B " Memoranda be booked in the names of the political sufferers for the lands they applied for, in spite of the fact that the lands were under the encroachment of the landless poor and other sections of the people;

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(b) whether it is a fact that the above matter was brought to the notice of the Government; and

(c) if so, what the action taken thereon was?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—

"(a) No such instructions were issued by the Sub-Collector, Ongole, in 1950.

"(b) Does not arise.

"(c) Does not arise."

The Romperu drainage scheme.

* 467 Q.—SRI V. SRI KRISHNA : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) the reasons for the delay in the execution of the Romperu drainage scheme;

(b) how long it will take to complete the scheme; and

(c) whether the Government have got any proposal to utilize the water from this drain for irrigation purposes?

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—"A statement [a] is placed on the table of the House."

Alleged discharge of certain blind people from the School for the Blind.

* 468 Q.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state how many blind people were recently discharged from the School for the Blind in Madras run by the Government, and if so, what were the reasons for the same?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM (on behalf of the Hon. the Minister for Education) :—"Thirteen inmates of the Government School for the Blind, Poonamallee, were expelled from the school for gross misconduct and unruly behaviour. Two of them have since been readmitted on their giving an assurance of good behaviour in future."

Resettlement in the South Arcot district.

* 469 Q.—

MR. SPEAKER :—"The hon. Member Sri Aranganathan is not in his seat and the answer will be printed in the proceedings."

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) when the Government propose to take up the resettlement work in the South Arcot district; and

(b) in how many districts of this State the settlement work is in force?

[a] Printed as Appendix II on page 791 infra.

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THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—
"(a) The Government do not propose to take up the resettlement work in the South Arcot district pending a decision regarding the general resettlement policy of the Government which is under examination.

"(b) Settlement operations are now in progress in some of the estate areas taken over under the Madras Estates (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Act, 1948, in the districts of Krishna, Nellore, Chingleput, Chittoor and Ramanathapuram."

Collection of market rates for poramboke lands.

* 470 Q.—SRI B. RAMAKRISHNA REDDI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state whether the Government have passed orders that market rate should be collected from those ryots who are in possession of poramboke lands?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—
"The Government have ordered that all lands which would have normally been sold in public auction or assigned on payment of market value, should hereafter be assigned on payment of market value or sold in public auction whichever is advantageous to the Government. Under the above orders, such of the poramboke lands which are valuable would be sold in auction or assigned on payment of market value."

Engineers working in Food Production Schemes.

* 471 Q.—

MR. SPEAKER :—"The hon. Member, Sri K. T. Kosalram, is not in his place, the answer will be printed in the proceedings."

SRI K. T. KOSALRAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) the number of executive engineers and assistant engineers, districtwar, who were working in Food Production Schemes in 1950–51; and

(b) how many are working now?

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—"(a) & (b) A statement[a] is placed on the table of the House."

Retrenchment in the Civil Supplies Department.

* 472 Q.—SRI T. NAGI REDDI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Civil Supplies Department staff as a whole or a major portion thereof is sought to be disbanded;

[a] Printed as Appendix III on page 792 infra.

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(b) whether the Government are making any provision for a contingency when decontrol orders are likely to be reversed; and

(c) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, (i) the number of officers, (ii) the number of clerks and peons and (iii) the number of chowkidars, who will be thrown out of Government service?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (a) Only a part of the Civil Supplies staff comprising of 4,452 posts, was retrenched up to 15th October 1952 in the Civil Supplies Department as a result of decontrol. It is not possible now to state, what quantum of staff will be retrenched hereafter, as this will depend on the food position in the State and the need for the continuance of fair price shops, etc.

" (b) Such a contingency is not anticipated at present. Apart from this, only a part of the Civil Supplies staff has been retrenched and not the entire staff. The strength of the Civil Supplies staff can therefore be varied according to the needs of the situation from time to time.

" (c) The information regarding the number of officers, clerks, peons, etc., already retrenched after the decontrol policy was announced, has already been furnished in reply to another question answered on the floor of this House. The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the statement placed on the table of the House with reference to Starred Question No. 213 answered on 2nd December 1952. As already stated, it is not possible now to say whether any more persons and if so how many in each category of staff will be thrown out in the future."

Representations from the agricultural labourers of Gannavaram taluk for assignment of lands.

* 473 Q.—SRI G. RAMA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received any application from the agricultural labourers of Ogirala of Gannavaram taluk, Krishna district, for the assignment of R.S. No. 1 of the village;

(b) if so, when it was received and what action has been taken by the Government;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Collector of Krishna district objected and threatened the agricultural labourers not to encroach upon the land to cultivate it;

(d) whether it is a fact that the agricultural labourers of the village levelled the field, arranged the bunds and furrowed the lands for cultivation and if so, when it was done; and

(e) whether the Collector took action against the landlords who encroached upon the above land after the agricultural labourers had left?

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THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—
"(a) No; but a petition, dated 27th July 1952, from the agricultural labourers was, however, received by the Collector of Krishna.

"(b) Does not arise.

"(c) No.

"(d) No.

"(e) The agricultural labourers did not cultivate the lands. No action was taken against the landlords (ryots) as they were in occupation of the lands under pattas granted by the landholder of the village and as the village was covered by the injunction orders of the High Court under the Estates Abolition Act, 1948."

Hostel for the students of Law College.

* 474 *Q.*—SRI T. C. NARAYANA NAMBIAR (on behalf of Sri V. R. Krishna Ayyar): Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) the total strength of the students of the Law College in the year 1952–53;

(b) the net surplus income available from the Law College during the academic year 1951–52;

(c) whether Government have got figures of students who are not lodging with their guardians in the City; or in any recognized hostel or lodge; and

(d) whether any representations have been received from the students of the Law College requesting the Government to provide a hostel for them and if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM (on behalf of the Hon. the Minister for Education) :—"(a) 1,260.

"(b) Rs. 95,704.

"(c) Yes, about 700 students.

"(d) Representations have been received from the students. The Government are actively considering the question of providing hostel facilities. I may invite the Member's attention to my answer to question No. 128-A[a]."

[*Note.*—**An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.**]

II.—ADJOURNMENT MOTION *RE* CLOSURE OF THE SHORANUR INDUSTRIES, LIMITED, MALABAR.

MR. SPEAKER :—"The hon. Member, Sri K. C. Gopalan Unni, has given notice of an adjournment motion. It reads as follows :—

'This House stands adjourned to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, viz., the closing down of the Shoranur Metal Industries, Limited, Malabar, on 5th December 1952 by orders of the Government of Madras resulting in unemployment to the workers and grave concern to the public.'

[a] **Answered on 25th November 1952.**

12th December 1952] [Mr. Speaker]

I wish to know from the Hon. Minister for Industries and Labour whether it is a Government concern or a private concern and whether the Government have ordered the closure of the factory.''

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—'' Sir, the Shoranur Metal Industries, Limited, Malabar, is a private concern to which the Government have given State-aid. The concern has not been paying back the money that is due to the Government and therefore the Government have asked the Collector to attach the machinery in lieu of the payment of money. We have not asked for the closure of the factory; we only wanted the instalments to be paid to us. The management are responsible for closing down the factory. Sir, it is not a matter of recent origin also. This has been going on for nearly seven months. Therefore, Sir, it cannot be discussed on the floor of this House.''

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—'' The Hon. Minister for Industries and Labour stated that the Government had not closed down the factory and it was the management that closed down the factory. Sir, I would like to correct him. The information that we have got is the Government have sealed the factory for failure of payment of instalments by the management. Whether the Government had ordered the closure of the factory or they had sealed it, it was an action of the Government. Therefore, Sir, it is a matter which is relevant and can be discussed on the floor of the House.''

MR. SPEAKER :—'' But the concern owes to the Government several lakhs of rupees.''

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—'' Yes, Sir. The Government obviously cannot close down the factory otherwise.''

MR. SPEAKER :—'' If the Government ask the concern to pay back the money, it comes under day-to-day administration.''

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—'' Sir, the sealing was done to prevent the machinery being sold without the knowledge of the Government.''

MR. SPEAKER :—'' It is not the Government that are responsible for the closure of the factory. Therefore I rule the adjournment motion out of order.''

* **SRI V. SRI KRISHNA** :—'' అధ్యక్షా, ప్రశ్నలు వేసే సమయములో మంత్రులు వాటికి సమాధానము చెప్పడం 'చెవిటి పెద్దమ్మా చేంతాడు ఎక్కడుందంటే మా అమ్మ పుట్టిల్లు బెజవాడ' అన్నట్లున్నది. మేము వేసిన ప్రశ్నలు తెలియకపోతే, వాటికి translate చేయించుకొని సరియైన సమాధానాలివ్వాలి లేక ఆ ప్రశ్నలకు నోటీసు అడగాలి. అలా కాకుండా, మా ప్రశ్నలకు అర్థం చేసుకొనకనే అసమర్థమైన సమాధానాలు చెప్పడం సరిఅయిన పద్ధతి గాదు. కనుక స్పీకరుగారు ఈ విషయములో సరియైన ఏర్పాటు చేయవలెనని కోరుచున్నాను.''

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—'' What he says is this. While replying to questions, some of the Ministers at any rate reply in

a way which reminds us of a Tamil proverb பட்டுக்கோட்டைக்கு என்ன வழி என்றால், கொட்டைப்பாக்கு பத்து பணம், என்பதைப் போல. If the Ministers do not understand the question, it would be better if they get it translated and give proper answers instead of giving irrelevant answers.''

MR. SPEAKER :—'' As far as I am concerned, the Chair cannot interfere regarding the method of answering by the Hon. Ministers. But hon. Members can move a cut motion during the Budget discussion and press it to a division if they want it.''

III.—GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

(1) FOOD SITUATION IN THE STATE—*cont.*

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—'' On a point of privilege, Sir. An important topic like the food situation in the entire State is being discussed to-day; but I find that none of the Members representing the Chingleput district has been given a chance to voice forth his feelings about the situation in that district. Does it mean, Sir, that there is no food problem in the Chingleput district? I find . . .''

MR. SPEAKER :—'' I cannot make any distinction between one district and another district. All that I do is to call Members who catch my eye. Mr. V. V. Ramaswami Nadar will speak now.''

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—'' Why not at least one Member from Chingleput be allowed to speak, Sir?''

MR. SPEAKER :—'' The Leader of the Opposition is going to speak to-day and the Hon. Chief Minister also will reply to the debate. There is not much time before us.''

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—'' We are also equally important as the leaders, Sir.''

10-30 a.m. * SRI V. V. RAMASAMI :—'' அவைத் தலைவர் அவர்களே, இப்பொழுது நமது சட்டசபையில் விவாதிக்கப்படும் பிரச்னையானது நாட்டிலுள்ள உணவு நிலைமையைப் பற்றி. இந்திய நாடு சுதந்திரம் அடைந்த பின்பு நமது நாட்டு மக்கள் தங்களுக்குத் தேவையான பொருள்களையும் பண்டங்களையும் எவ்வளவு தூரம் தாங்களாகவே உற்பத்தி செய்து கொண்டு தானே தங்களுடைய வாழ்க்கைத் தரத்தை உயர்த்த வேண்டிய வழிகளையும் அவர்கள் செய்து கொள்ளவேண்டும் என்ற உணர்ச்சி எங்கும் பரவி இருந்தது என்பது எல்லோருக்கும் தெரிந்த விஷயம். வெளி நாடுகளிலிருந்து இறக்குமதியாகும் உணவு பொருள்களை எவ்வளவுக்கெவ்வளவு குறைத்து அதன் மூலம் மிச்சப்படும் பணத்தைக்கொண்டு நாட்டின் நிதி நிலைமையை செவ்வனே வைத்துக் கொள்ளவேண்டும் என்பது நமது தலைவர்களுடைய விருப்பம் ஆகும். இந்த நிலைமையில் நமது நாட்டில் இருக்கும் உணவு பற்றுக்குறையை தீர்க்க வேண்டும் என்ற பொறுப்பு அரசியலாருக்கு மட்டும் இல்லை, மற்றும் எல்லா மக்களுக்கும் பெரிய வேதனையாக இருந்து வந்திருக்கிறது என்பது ஒப்புக்கொள்ள வேண்டிய விஷயமாகும். போர்முடிந்த சில ஆண்டுகளுக்கு முன்பு நாட்டில் இருக்கும் பற்றுக்குறையை நிவர்த்தி பண்ணுவதற்கு உணவு பங்கீட்டு முறையை அமுலுக்குக் கொண்டு வரும் வகையில் மக்களுக்கு பல முறைகளில் அவர்கள் உதவி செய்துவந்தார்கள். அப்படி அவர்கள் எடுத்துக் கொண்டது அவசியம் என்று கருதி நாட்டில் இருக்கக் கூடிய நிலங்களிலெல்லாம் அவரவர்களுடைய சக்திக்கு ஏற்றவாறு உணவு பொருள்களை

12th December 1952] [Sri V. V. Ramaswami]

பெருக்குவதற்கு முயற்சி செய்து அவர்களும் உணவுப் பொருள் உற்பத்தியையும் பெருக்கிக் கொண்டுவந்தார்கள். ஆனபோதிலும் அவர்களுக்கு காலாகாலத்தில் வேண்டிய விதை, எரு, மின்சாரம் போன்ற வசதிகள் இல்லாததோடு, கிணற்றிலிருந்து தண்ணீர் எடுத்துக் கொள்வதற்கு குழாயும் மற்ற கருவிகளும் கொடுத்து உதவ முடியாமல் போனதால் அவர்களுக்கு உற்சாகம் குறைந்தது என்று சொல்லவேண்டும். நிலைமை அப்படி இருந்தும் உணவுப் பற்றுக்குறையை நிவர்த்தி பண்ணுவதற்காக சர்க்கார் எடுத்துக்கொண்ட கொள்முதல் முறையினால் விவசாயிகள் எதிர் பார்த்த விலையைக் கொடுக்காமல் இருந்தால் விவசாயிகளுக்கு உற்பத்தியில் ஊக்கம் குன்றி அவர்கள் உணவு உற்பத்தியில் தங்களுடைய மனதைச் செலுத்தாமல் வணிக பொருள்களை விவசாயம் செய்வதில் அவர்கள் நாட்டம் செலுத்தினார்கள். ஏனென்றால் இந்தக் கடலை, புகையிலை, மிளகாய் முதலிய வணிக பொருள்களை வெளிநாட்டிற்கு ஏற்றுமதி பண்ணுவதால் அவர்களுடைய செலவுக்கும், உழைப்பிற்கும் ஏற்றவாறு வருவாய் கிடைக்கும் என்ற நிலை இருந்ததால் அவர்கள் அதில் நாட்டம் செலுத்த வேண்டியதாயிற்று. மேலும் உற்பத்தியாகும் பொருள்களை அரசியலார் தங்களுடைய விற்பனை கடைகளுக்கு எடுத்துக் கொள்வதற்காக செய்த நடவடிக்கைகளெல்லாம் அவர்களை தொல்லைக்கு ஆளாக்கியதினால் சர்க்காரின் மேல் அவர்களுக்கு வெறுப்பு வந்து இந்தத் தொல்லையிலிருந்து மீளுவதற்கும் வேறு வழிகளில் விவசாயத்தைப் பெருக்குவதற்கும் வணிக பொருள்களை உற்பத்தி செய்வதில் நாட்டம் செலுத்த வேண்டியதாயிற்று. மேலும் விவசாயிகள் எதிர்பார்த்த விலையை அரசியலார் கொடுக்காததாலும், அரசியலார் தங்களுடைய பங்கீட்டு முறையினால் வெளியிலிருந்து உணவுப் பொருள்களை வரவழைத்து மக்களுக்குக் கொடுக்கக் கடமைப்பட்டிருக்கிறார்கள் என்ற உணர்ச்சியினாலும் மக்கள் அரசியலாரின்மேல் பாரத்தைப் போட்டுவிட்டு அவர்களுக்கு எந்த விவசாயத்தில் வருமானம் வருகிறதோ அதில் தங்களுடைய மனதைச் செலுத்தி வந்தார்கள். இந்த நிலைமை ஏற்பட்டதினால் வெளிநாட்டிலிருந்து உணவு பொருள்களை அதிகமாகக் கொண்டுவந்து மக்களுக்குக் கொடுக்கும்படியான பெரும் பொறுப்பு அரசியலாரிடத்தில் ஏற்பட்டுவிட்டது. ஆனால் இது அதிக நாள் நீடிக்கவில்லை. பொதுநலத் தொண்டர்களின் கிளர்ச்சியின் பயனாக அரசியலார் கொண்டு வந்த பங்கீட்டு முறையை தளர்த்திக்கொண்டுவந்தனர். இப்பொழுதுள்ள சர்க்கார் நமது ராஜாஜி மந்திரி சபை வந்ததும் பூராவாகவும் இந்தக் கட்டுப்பாட்டை நீக்கி விட்டார்கள். அதை எல்லோரும் வரவேற்கிறோம். அதுவும் சரியாக நடந்து வருகிறது என்பதைச் சொல்லத் தேவை இல்லை. பொது மக்களும் இந்த முறையை வரவேற்கிறார்கள். உணவுப் பொருள்களை மக்களுக்குக் கொண்டுவந்து கொடுக்க வேண்டியது அரசியலாருடைய கடமை என்று பொதுமக்கள் உற்பத்தியிலுள்ள உற்சாகத்தில் குறைந்துவிடக் கூடாது. தங்களுக்குத் தேவையான உணவு பொருள்களை தாங்களே உற்பத்தி செய்துகொள்ளவேண்டும் என்ற உணர்ச்சி மக்களிடத்தில் இருக்க வேண்டும். தன் காலிலேயே தாங்கள் நிற்க வேண்டும் என்ற உணர்ச்சி மக்களுக்கு இருக்கவேண்டும். இந்த கொள்முதல் முறையை எடுத்து விட்டு, பங்கீட்டு முறையையும் தளர்த்திவிட்டு இறுதியாகக்கொள்முதலையும் பங்கீட்டு முறையையும் ரத்து செய்தவுடனே குறிப்பாக இந்த புஞ்சை தானியங்களான கம்பு, கேப்பை, சோளம் முதலிய தான்யங்களின் கட்டுப்பாட்டையும் தைர்யமாக எடுத்துவிட்டார்கள். அதற்குக் காரணம் இந்த பருவ மழை உதவியாக இருக்கும் என்று அரசியலார் நம்பினார்கள். ஜூன் மாதத்தில் இந்த தென்மேற்கு பருவமழை வந்திருந்தால் எவ்வளவோ உபகாரமாக இருந்திருக்கும். அரசியலாரும் வெற்றி அடைந்திருப்பார்கள். எதோ நாம் எதிர் பார்த்ததற்கு விரோதமாக தென்மேற்கு மழை மோசம் செய்துவிட்டது. அடுத்தபடியாக வடகிழக்கு பருவமழையும் பிந்தி வந்ததோடல்லாமல் இறுதியில் பெய்யவேண்டிய இடத்தில் பெய்யாமல், பெய்த இடங்களில் விவசாயத்திற்கு பெரும் சேதம் விளைவிக்கக் கூடிய புயல் அடித்து மக்களும் மாக்களும் இடஞ்சல்படும் நிலையை விளைவித்துவிட்டது. அரசியலாரின் உணவு பற்றுக்குறை ஒரு பக்கம் இருக்க இப்பொழுது புயலினால் ஏற்பட்ட சேதத்திற்கு செலவு செய்ய வேண்டிய கவலைக்கும் இடமாகிவிட்டது.

“ அடுத்த படியாக பற்றுக்குறையை நிவர்த்திக்க வேண்டிய வேலை செய்ய வேண்டி இருக்க, எல்லா ஜில்லாக்களையும் பஞ்சப் பிரதேசமாக்கப் படவேண்டும் என்று ஒவ்வொரு மெம்பரும் சொன்னால் மக்களுக்கு திருப்தி அளித்து விடுமா என்பதைப் பார்க்கவேண்டும். அந்த மனப்பான்மையை பிரதிநிதிகள் மக்களிடத்தில் ஏற்படுத்தி விடக்கூடாது என்று எச்சரிக்கை செய்ய விரும்புகிறேன். பஞ்சப் பிரதேசமாக்கி விட்டால் ஒவ்வொரு பிரதிநிதிகளுடைய பொறுப்பும் கழிந்து விட்டது என்று நினைக்கக்கூடாது. மக்களிடத்தில் பீதியை உண்டாக்கக் கூடாது என்ற கடமை உணர்ச்சி மனதில் கொள்ளவேண்டும். இப்பொழுது ராமனாதபுரம் ஜில்லாவில் சொற்ப மழை கூட இல்லாமல் போய்விட்டது. அங்கெல்லாம் பயிர்கள் காய்ந்து அழிந்து போய் விட்டன. கலெக்டரும் நிலைமையை நன்கு அறிந்திருக்கிறார். அவர் கேட்கின்ற நிதி உதவியையும் அவர் திட்டமிடும் நிவாரண வேலைக்கு வேண்டிய சௌகர்யங்களையும் அரசியலார் தங்கு தடையின்றி கொடுத்தால் அதுதான் மக்களுக்கு திருப்தி தருமே யொழிய மற்றப்படி வீணாக பிரச்னையை குழப்பி விடக்கூடாது என்று சொல்லிக் கொள்ள விரும்புகிறேன்.

“ அடுத்தபடியாக இப்பொழுது என்ன செய்யவேண்டும் என்றால் இப்பொழுது தேவையான உணவு பொருளான அரிசியை உடனே கொண்டு வந்து கொடுக்கும்படியான ஏற்பாடு செய்யவேண்டும். பெரிய பெரிய திட்டங்களை இப்பொழுது எடுத்துச் செய்ய வேண்டியதில்லை. இப்பொழுது மழை இல்லாததால் கிணறுகளில் தண்ணீர் இல்லாமல் போய் விட்டது. கிணறுகள் தோண்டுவதற்கும் பிறவசதி செய்வதற்கும் கடன் மான்யம் கொடுத்து வந்தார்கள். இப்பொழுது அப்படிக் கொடுக்கவில்லை. அவ்விதம் தொடர்ந்து கொடுத்து வந்திருந்தல் மழை பெய்வதற்கு முன்பாக அங்கேயுள்ள ஏரிகளையும் கால்வாய்களையும் செப்பனிட்டு வைத்திருப்பார்கள். இது வரையிலும் மான்யம் கொடுத்து வந்து இப்பொழுது திடீர் என்று நிறுத்தி விட்டார்கள். கிணறுகள் தோண்டுவது என்றால் ரூ. 1,500; 2,000 செலவாகிறது. ஆனால் அதற்கு சர்க்கார் ரூ, 500 தான் கொடுக்கிறார்கள். அதனால் மக்களால் தோண்ட முடியவில்லை. இப்பொழுது மக்களிடத்தில் வாங்கும் சக்தி குறைந்திருக்கிறது, ஒரு கிணறு கூட தோண்ட முடியவில்லை. அதோடு மத்திய சர்க்காரிடமிருந்து உணவு பொருள்களைக் கொண்டு வருவதோடல்லாமல் மக்களுக்கு வேண்டிய எரு, விதை முதலியவைகளைக் கொடுப்பதற்கும் ஏற்பாடு செய்யவேண்டும். இப்பொழுது மக்கள் பெரிய நீர்த்தேக்கங்களையும் கால்வாய்களையும் கட்டுவதில் மனதைச் செலுத்திக் கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். நம் நாட்டிலுள்ள கண்மாய், கால்வாய்கள் போன்ற நீர்பாசன வசதிகள் உலகத்திலேயே வேறு எங்கும் கிடையாது. அந்தப் பணத்தை . . .”

Mr. SPEAKER :—“ The hon. Member's time is up.”

Sri A. GOVINDASWAMI NAYAGAR :—“ Sir, on a point of order கனம் சபா நாயகர் அவர்களே, இந்த உணவு பிரச்னை மீது விவாதம் நடக்கும்போது, தென் ஆற்காடு ஜில்லாவில் உணவு பஞ்சம் இருப்பதால் அங்கு நியாய விலைக் கடைகளை நிறைய திறக்கவேண்டும் என்றும், போதுமான தானியம் மக்களுக்கு கிடைக்கும்படி ஏற்பாடு செய்ய வேண்டும் என்றும் ஒரு திருத்தம் கொடுத்திருக்கிறேன். அந்தத் திருத்தத்தை பிரேரேபிக்க வேண்டும் என்று முதலில் கேட்டேன். அதன்மேல் பிறகு பேசுவதற்கு அனுமதி கொடுக்கிறேன் என்று முதலில் சொன்னீர். இது வரைக்கும் எனக்கு அனுமதி கொடுக்கவில்லை. கட்சி தலைவர்களும் இப்பொழுது பேசுவதற்கு ஆரம்பித்து விட்டார்கள். என்னைப் பேசுவதற்கு அனுமதி கொடுக்காததன் காரணம் புரியவில்லை. ஆகவே நான் பேசுவதற்கு அனுமதி கொடுக்கும்படியாகக் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

10-40 a.m. Mr. SPEAKER :—“ This is not a point of order.”

* Janab K. UPPI :—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday it was stated in this House by one of the Members that there were starvation deaths in Malabar and that they have been reported in the

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papers. Sir, I submit that the situation in Malabar is not so bad as to result in starvation deaths, because food is available, if not in large quantities, at least in quantities which are enough for living. Starvation deaths could not have taken place within these two or three days. If the correspondent of the paper which reported this news had seen two persons dying and thought that they were dying on account of starvation, I am only sorry for him; I must say it is only he who has allowed those people to die of starvation. So far as Malabar is concerned, the food position there after decontrol has not in any way deteriorated. I have to thank the present Government, in the name of the people of Malabar, for having taken this bold step and removed control which has been a canker in society. It has benumbed the hearts of people, it has demoralized everybody in some way or other. Sir, control was one of the greatest hindrances to the progress of the Grow More Food Campaign. In spite of the fact that the Government have spent so many crores over the Grow More Food Campaign, it has not been a success, because the human side of it, i.e., the will to cultivate, was wanting on account of the harassment and sufferings caused to the cultivator. The cultivator was actually reluctant to produce food on account of the existence of control; but, after decontrol, the incentive came back to the producer to produce more food, and every man who has a bit of land has begun to cultivate, and the effect has been marvellous. Again, after decontrol, prices in Malabar did not go up for a long time. Decontrol has produced another result. Foodgrains which were formerly going to the black-market in spite of procurement, are now coming out freely and are being sold at market prices throughout Malabar. You will be surprised to hear, Sir, that in some places the prices prevailing in fair price shops are greater than the market prices in the locality. That is the position after decontrol in Malabar. Unfortunately for us, the south-west monsoon did not come in proper time and the north-east monsoon was a failure again. So, at present there is some scarcity in the country. Still there is a steady market price now, while formerly there was no market price at all, and it was all any man's price, i.e., any man could demand any price for his grain, and most of it was sold only in the black-market. I must say that the quantity procured by the Government in Malabar last year was greater than the quantity procured in any one of the last several years, because control was removed and foodgrains freely came into the market.

" Then, Sir, I have to say a few words about the Producer-cum-Consumer Co-operative Societies. The life history of the Producer-cum-Consumer Co-operative Societies is scandalous. The Government have in their possession sufficient information regarding the scandalous way in which the Producer-cum-Consumer Co-operative Societies have been conducted. They know that embezzlements have been going on. There are also prosecutions pending before the courts in regard to many embezzlements, and people are now saying that these Producer-cum-Consumer Co-operative Societies must be called black-market societies. Yesterday somebody was saying that the agitation against the Producer-cum-Consumer Co-operative Societies was being engineered or manoeuvred by people

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who are connected with the Civil Supplies Department or by big wholesale merchants. I submit, Sir, that such an allegation is mean and mendacious. Let us see how many societies have been superseded and taken over and conducted by the Government. My information is that out of about 108 societies, 84 societies have been superseded. Only a few of them have been conducted in a manner befitting a society. Six years ago, in 1946, we opposed, i.e., the Muslim League opposed the formation of these societies and as we anticipated, to-day, we find that most of these societies are used by people for enriching themselves by doing business in the black-market. Sir, it is high time that the Government looked into this matter.

" Finally, Sir, let me hope that Government will not resort to control once again. If any such thing happens, I am sure it will be a great calamity for the country. So far as Malabar is concerned, decontrol came when the cultivation work was over. So, at present people are running to their lands with a view to cultivate them and grow foodgrains, and sure as anything, perhaps, next year Malabar, though not completely self-sufficient, will be able to meet at least half the quantity of her own food requirements. With these words, Sir, I support the motion moved."

* Dr. K. B. Menon :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Minister for Finance, in opening the debate, took us through a historical survey of the food problem, and the picture that he paints does not give room for much chronic pessimism or abundant optimism. He however wants us to be on our guard, and therefore we should keep a watchful eye upon the shifting aspect of the food problem of this State. That means that in the acceptedly deficit areas like Malabar and Nilgiris, our watchful eye should be more vigilant and more careful. As far as Malabar is concerned, the problem is created mostly by two factors, one by the heavy population, and the other by the contour of the territory. She is one of the most thickly populated districts in the Madras State. She has a population almost twice that of any other district in the State crowded
10-50 in an area which is very small because of the hills and dales, rivers
a.m. and rivulets of Malabar. In spite of her fertility, she has not been able to feed her population for more than half the year. But this is not because of her lack of fertility or her incapacity to produce. The point I wish to make is that unless there is some kind of territorial specialization under which land is put to the best use for which it is suited, the output from land is bound to be limited. In some parts of Malabar, particularly in North Malabar, the paddy fields do not yield even half the cost of production and in some parts of South Malabar also paddy production is not an economic proposition. If there is to be some territorial specialization, wherein there will be a change in the kind of produce that is grown on the lands, there has to be considerable education, training and propaganda.

" This takes me to the subject of the food habits of the people. Food habits of the people are created and to some extent inherited

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and to some extent determined by environments. The Government, I understand, have a scheme to put up model cafes and these model cafes may be used as effective media for educating the people on habits of food. My submission is that these model cafes should be opened not only in towns, but also in the mufassal for the people of the country live in the villages.

" Another fact I would like to point out is that when we talk of food, we generally restrict ourselves to the production of cereals. Apart from this, we have large supplies of other kinds of food available in the country and these have not been satisfactorily tapped. I am referring to the food that the sea and the rivers offer to us. Madras State has a long coast line. Particularly as far as the district of Malabar is concerned, this is a very important factor because the fisheries on the Malabar coast is, according to Government reports, one of the best in the world. Even though it is one of the best in the world, if my information is correct, not even one modern trawler is plying in these waters. I wish the Government, particularly the Central Government, would give some speedy attention to this proposal so that the fisheries on the Malabar coast, as well as the rivers, tanks and lakes may be effectively used to supplement the food of the people of Malabar. The people of Malabar, Mr. Speaker, Sir, have the fish habit, they are fish-minded and if the figures furnished by the Government are to be a guide—I am speaking purely from memory—the per capita consumption of fish in Malabar almost tops the list, as far as India is concerned and takes a rank in the world and, if I remember aright, it is 56 pounds per capita. But owing to the rise in the cost because of the lack of proper supply, I cannot say that fish to-day is the poor man's food. Primitive methods of fishing coupled with the poverty of the fisherman, his ignorance, his lack of organization are responsible for the poor supply of fish on the Malabar coast.

" Another factor to be borne in mind is the contour. It is largely responsible for the food problem of Malabar. It is not so much the scarcity of water, because in a normal year Malabar gets a rainfall of 125 inches, as it is a question of preserving the water for irrigational purposes. The rapids and rivers that flow on the hills bring water accumulated during the monsoon period from the hills down to the valleys and the problem is one of irrigating patches of fields which lie between the hills. If the rapids and rivers are properly dammed and bunded at convenient distances and convenient levels the water of the monsoon can be preserved and used by poor peasants. Also pumpsets may be fitted along the long-winding rivers like the Bharatham and the Thuttrapuzha which flow through the rice-producing areas of the district. These must be made available to the peasants so as to be used when there is scarcity of water. Mere talking of pumpsets is of no use; they must be made available to the people at small cost. As it is, the charge is rather high and unless electricity is made available, the cost of the pumpsets will be beyond the reach of the average peasant. I understand that the cost of an oil-engine driven pump

is thrice more than an electrically driven pump. Therefore, as soon as possible Government should make electricity available to the people of Malabar, particularly to the rice-growing areas.

"Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit that there are very many tanks that can be conveniently renovated and made use of. The orders of the Board of Revenue stand in the way of renovation of these tanks and I hope that the Government will look into it.

"One word about the distribution of food through the Producer-cum-Consumer Co-operative Societies. The existing system of distribution is expensive, inefficient and corrupt and therefore, should be got rid of. I have spoken about this question on the floor of the House and Members coming from that district have also spoken about how inefficient and corrupt they are and the changes that should be brought about in the societies. I feel, Sir, that these societies have outlived their times and no longer represent the people's movement because the Producer-cum-Consumer Co-operative Societies in the mufassal are controlled by feudal interests and in the cities they are controlled by capitalist interests. Now that we have no more controls, there should be a change in the system and the Producer-cum-Consumer Co-operative Societies may be abolished and new co-operative multi-purpose societies may be started and the function of managing these societies may be handed over to them. Because of the terrible and huge defalcations that have taken place, I plead with the Government to appoint a commission, or at least depute a high-ranking official to study the position of the Producer-cum-Consumer Co-operative Societies in Malabar and bring about some changes in their working. I feel that would prevent swindling of public moneys on the part of the Presidents and Secretaries of these institutions."

SRI V. GOPALA GOUNDER :—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the Tamilnad Toilers Party I want to place my views on the matter now under discussion by the House. Every one of us knows about the present food scarcity in the State. The Hon. Minister for Food explained to the House with facts and figures the circumstances which led to the scarcity at present. I am glad he ended his speech with the hope that we can tide over this difficulty if we could take all steps consistent with the finances of the State. He said, in the beginning that this state of affairs was due to the failure of the monsoons. Everyone will certainly agree with him. Nobody is, however, to blame for the failure of the monsoons but yet there is one general complaint against the Government. I do not want to make that complaint against the present Government but it certainly must be laid on the Government that was then in charge because this state of affairs commenced almost four or five years back and knowing it they did not take proper steps to see that the acute distress was ameliorated to the extent expected by
11 a.m. the people. There were certain laws in existence then and they were not properly administered by the Government. So far as the question of production is concerned, the failure of the monsoon is the

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main factor and there is also another factor for which the Government should share some responsibility. In those days the Government had the control over the distribution of manure, etc., through the Agricultural department and other co-operative societies. Though I do not want to go into these things of the past because they will not be very useful to us now, I just want to refer to them. The then Government allowed the existing state of affairs to continue and the manure and other agricultural implements were not distributed properly. I am not going to lay a charge against them on this score but I just want to show that as ameliorative measures were not taken to the extent expected of the Government and they allowed matters to drift, it has led to the present situation. It is our duty to forget all that has been done in the past, but I just wish to refer to the fact that because the Government left the people uncared for, the people developed a hatred towards the Government which was in existence then. The present state of affairs is only a natural consequence of this neglect.

"Of course, the Hon. Minister has requested the House to suggest ways and means as to how best we can tide over the difficulties at present. I am therefore going to submit one or two suggestions now which, if feasible, the Government may adopt to get over these difficulties. So far as production is concerned, we are glad that Nature has somehow been kind enough to give us the necessary rains. Of course, this was the only complaint we were making till now. With irrigation facilities now available, it will be easier for the farmer to go on with his production. But the last six years of drought has left the farmer with no seeds or manure or money for getting on with his cultivation. I would therefore suggest to the Government that they will be pleased to distribute seeds, manure and other things by way of loans to the agriculturists through the Agricultural department, of course, consistent with the State's finances. I know, Sir, that sometime back loans were distributed to the farmers so that they could revive their cultivation. I suggest that similar loans may be given to the farmers to help them now. In this connexion, I wish to make one submission in regard to the distribution of these loans. I know personally that in some cases the distribution of loans was not done properly by the officers entrusted with this task. There were intermediaries everywhere and the farmer who applied for a loan got only 50 per cent of what he had applied for and the remaining 50 per cent went into other hands. I therefore submit, Sir, that the Government should issue strict instructions to the officers entrusted with this work to be very careful in the distribution of these loans.

"The other suggestion is in regard to the distribution of foodgrains. Of course, the Hon. Minister was saying that we cannot expect our requirements to be met for the present from outside but, I would submit, that from the quantity available the distribution could be done through fair-price shops. Of course, there are some fair-price shops now being run though their number is not up to the requirements of the public. These fair-price shop-owners are

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masters of themselves. There is no strict control over them and there is no one to see that these shops are run properly and distribution of the grains entrusted to them for sale is correctly done. Though I do not want to say it, I have still to point out that the Supply department officers in the past were mostly corrupt. I do not think that this state of affairs continues even now. Anyhow, I would request the Government to issue necessary instructions and see that this corruption is put an end to.

" Sir, I wish to submit a word more about gruel centres. So far as my district of South Arcot is concerned . . ."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member's time is over. I now call upon hon. Member, Sri B. Gangayya Naidu."

* SRI B. GANGAYYA NAIDU :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, the food policy which has been placed before the House and which is being discussed on the floor of this Assembly is a vital problem and demands close consideration and attention. It is known to all of us that Madras State is deficit in food and that it is classified into two areas, namely, the delta areas and non-delta areas. In delta areas the tenants are provided with irrigation facilities which will help them to get the maximum yield and the Government is also doing its best for the maintenance and efficiency of the irrigation facilities. In spite of all these advantages that are conferred on these tenants they are not able to get the maximum yield from their holdings. There must be some reason for their not being able to do so. These holdings are not economic ones and are subject to subdivision and fragmentation which therefore leads to waste of capital and labour. Secondly, the social and economic condition of the tenant population is not very favourable because, whatever they have to purchase, whether it be agricultural implements or chemical manures, they have to do so at a very high rate from the merchants. The third reason is that their mode of cultivation is still crude and primitive. No doubt, we are now having agricultural demonstrators in every taluk, and there is the District Agricultural Officer also whose duty it is to carry on propaganda among the ryots so that they may become enlightened in methods of scientific cultivation. In spite of all these facilities, the cultivation which is now being carried on by the peasants is still crude and we are therefore not able to get the maximum yield which we expect from these delta areas.

" The fourth reason which is important and which is also far-reaching is the concentration of large tracts of lands under single individuals who cannot begin and complete the agricultural operations on their holdings in time. The fifth reason is that these landowners who own extensive areas lease them out to poor tenants who are always at the sweet will and pleasure of these landowners who could get them evicted at any time they want. There is therefore no incentive on the part of the tenants. These are the reasons for our not having the maximum yield even from the delta areas.

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" A pernicious feature in our rural economy is that soon after they harvest their crops they sell them away to the local dealers at low prices for the purpose of paying the land revenue and discharging their debts. Subsequently they purchase paddy and other foodstuffs at high rates from the local traders. That represents the actual position. Even though the delta districts are surplus, yet the population feel that they are facing a deficiency of food.

" Now, Sir, the second approach to this problem is with regard to production in non-deltaic areas. In all non-deltaic areas, that is, districts which are dry, production depends upon certain factors, for instance, seasonal rains or monsoons, availability of manures, agricultural implements and irrigational facilities. Over and above all these things, seasonal rains play a great part in the rural economy of the ryot population. The non-deltaic areas of Visakhapatnam and Srikakulam are frequently subjected to miserable famine conditions and though they have got rich resources, they have not been improved or developed. For instance, at the time of the discussion of the Budget proposals I have repeatedly brought to the notice of the Government that there are certain irrigation systems in Visakhapatnam district—in Viravalli there is Arundale Dam over the river Sarada and a dam over Konam—and if these two schemes are completed, it will solve 50 per cent of the food problem in the Viskhapatnam district. But the Government did not pay any heed to our request. There are also many other minor irrigation works which, if completed, would meet 50 per cent of the food deficit in Visakhapatnam district. That is the position of the district with regard to food. 11-10 a.m.

" Then, Sir, last year, in the two districts of Visakhapatnam and Srikakulam the crops had been fair and people did not bother themselves about foodstuffs till the end of August 1952. This year the seasonal conditions are not favourable to the ryots and most of the lands in Viravalli, Yellamanchili and Narasapatnam taluks are lying fallow. All the lands fed by river water were cultivated in the first and second weeks of October, but subsequently the crops have withered away. That is the present position of the crops in the Visakhapatnam district. Sir, the people belonging to the district, mainly those in the Narasapatnam Division, are confronted with famine conditions, starvation and death. In order to alleviate the distress of the people of that division, I suggest to the Government to take certain steps in order to wipe out famine conditions that are existing in the Narasapatnam Division, that is in Viravalli and Yellamanchili taluks. I would suggest that the Government should first declare the Visakhapatnam district as a famine area and immediately start famine relief works in the Narasapatnam division, particularly in the Yellamanchili and Viravalli taluks. Secondly, I would suggest the starting of relief shops in the places where ration shops existed during the time of informal rationing. Thirdly, I would suggest that Government should grant long-term loans to the ryots belonging to the Visakhapatnam district.

" Sir, one other suggestion which I would like to place before this honourable House is that the Government should allow these

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two districts of Visakhapatnam and Srikakulam to import paddy and seeds from other districts so that they may carry on their agricultural operations for the next year."

Mr. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member's time is up."

* Sri V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was one of those who welcomed decontrol. Madras State generally makes history and leads the rest of the States and true to its tradition it made history in the matter of decontrol which led the rest of India to introduce decontrol. Decontrol came as usual, under the leadership of Rajaji whose name has gone down in the history of the Madras State as having given the lead in many matters of public importance. Decontrol is a gift to us by the present Government. Nobody in this House wanted decontrol in the sense they passed a formal resolution or made a formal approach to the concerned Ministers. I welcomed decontrol although I knew that the supply was not in a position to cope with the demand. Yet, I welcomed it because decontrol has concerned the ultimate right of man to live, to choose his food, buy whatever he wanted and to eat whatever quantity he liked. The life of the people had been demoralized by many years of control where the officials of the Supplies department had exploited, harassed and humiliated our people. Therefore, when decontrol came, people heaved a sigh of relief, thanks to the present Government. When I put a few questions on the floor of this House regarding certain matters which were just and proper before decontrol but which turned out to be unjust and improper after decontrol, the Hon. Minister for Food either failed to catch my point or ignored it. I am still nursing a grievance against him. My point is, decontrol was confined to non-statutory areas and in those non-statutory areas where market was open people could afford to buy any amount, they were allowed 2 to 3 oz. in fair-price shops and in the towns where decontrol did not come, they were given 7 oz. It was so because people in towns were not in a position to buy in the open market, whereas people in the villages were in a position to buy in open market. It was only right and proper that some discrimination and disparity should exist. But, now when conditions have become the same all over after decontrol, both in towns and rural parts, I do not know why this disparity and why this discrimination should exist. If at all there should be discrimination, it should be favourable to the villagers only. I feel that people in the villages have a right to be favoured with regard to matters of food. People in the towns being in a position to command monetary facilities are able to buy not only cereal, but even non-cereal food. Again a man in the town requires less of physical energy than a man in rural parts. Now, taking the consumption of food as a whole, people in towns consume at the rate of 10 to 20 oz. of food on an average per day, whereas people in rural parts, on account of their low purchasing power, are confined only to the fair-price shops where they get only 2 to 3 oz. So, Sir, the whole thing must be changed and if the Government are not in a position to reverse the order in favour of the rural parts, I only plead that the whole thing must be equated so that

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people in the rural parts get the same quantity that is given to people in towns. While we were struggling for food some sudden bulk release of milo stocks took place in Pudukkottai. Quite a large stock of milo had been reserved by a few stockists and all of a sudden one dead of night an order for a consignment of milo was flown from Tiruchirappalli to Pudukkottai and thousands of bags were sent out to Pudukkottai. That is the sort of food administration we are having. The people on the spot knew the consequent effects, but no time was allowed for representation. The whole thing is a hot-bed of scandal. Of course, later on the only visible effect of this rush was that people had been deprived of their legitimate food. A few merchants with the goodwill of the officials combined to make money at public suffering. I therefore appeal to the Minister for Food to order a departmental enquiry into the milo affairs in Pudukkottai. I hear that though a few merchants, as well as the co-operative institutions, all of whom were entrusted with the distribution of food, in an equal degree, have been responsible for black-marketing, only the private merchants' licences have been suspended, whereas the co-operative societies are allowed to continue. As a matter of fact, the sphere of distribution of the co-operative societies has been enlarged on account of the suspension of licences of private parties. I do not know why the co-operative societies alone should be given favoured treatment and not the others, while as a matter of fact both the merchants and co-operative societies committed the same offence and so both should be subjected to the same severe treatment. On the other hand, the worst type of treatment should be meted out to the co-operative society because most of the money which they are allowed to operate on is being contributed by the Government. It is a public institution and it is a sort of semi-controlled Government institution and it should therefore behave much better than even private individuals or private merchants whose motive is only profit. Instead of that, co-operative institutions have been favoured 11-20
and private merchants have been suspended. I want a depart- a.m.
mental enquiry into this matter. It has also come to my notice that certain officials from Tiruchirappalli came to Pudukkottai in the night, got the release orders served on them and transported the bags that very night. The result is that the poor people of Pudukkottai had to go without milo for quite a long time. When the Hon. Chief Minister visited Pudukkottai, some representations were made to him and he was kind enough to order the despatch of some quantity to Pudukkottai. But that was not enough to meet the needs of all the people in the area. I would even suggest to the Government to buy less of rice or paddy and concentrate more on the purchase of milo which is the poor man's food. Milo should be distributed freely and copiously all over, not only through fair-price shops but also through the open market.

" With regard to the receipt of milo, I understand that only those who were having ration cards in 1951 are allowed to take milo from fair-price shops and not others. Those people who were in possession of grains in 1951 could not have obtained cards, because there was no necessity for them. But if they are no longer

in possession of grains and they have no stock, they have to depend only on fair-price shops. It is but proper that such people also should be allowed to draw from the fair-price shops.

" I understand that the cardholders who have lost their cards are not able to get substitute cards promptly. The procedure seems to be that the application for a substitute card has to be made to the Commissioner of Civil Supplies or some other officer very far away and he has to sanction the application. This procedure takes a long time. What is a poor man who has lost his card to do in the interval? Should there not be some provision made like the issue of temporary cards for the interval between the making of an application and its scrutiny and sanction?

" A friend of mine from Andhradesa has brought to my notice an injustice. He was asked by the Agricultural Department to undertake cultivation of seed paddy. A public spirited man he was, and he readily acceded and cultivated seed paddy according to the methods prescribed by the Agricultural Department. It cost him Rs. 150 per acre to grow seed paddy. The Agricultural Department wanted him to supply a further 8 bags of paddy and evidently he undertook to supply that quantity. Now, the procurement officials want him to supply 8 bags under the levy system. When the total output itself is only about 15 bags as per Government I cannot understand how officials of two different departments of Government can ask him to part with 16 bags of paddy. Even assuming that there has been some mistake in the estimate of output, should we not allow for the retention of some paddy for the subsistence of the person who cultivated seed paddy for supply to the Agricultural Department in a spirit of service? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member has one more minute."

* SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" If he had not fallen a victim to the Agricultural Department, he could have cultivated ordinary paddy where the cultivation expenses come to only Rs. 75 per acre and he need not have cultivated seed paddy where the cultivation expenses come to Rs. 150 per acre. Is this the reward for the spirit of public service he has shown? Should he not be allowed the retention of some paddy for the maintenance of himself and his family instead of being pounced upon by two sets of Government officials in a Shylockian spirit and asked to surrender the entire stock?

" The Hon. Speaker says that my time is up. Decontrol is a gift to us by the present Ministry and it is not my purpose to look the gift horse in the mouth. I pointed out some defects in order to make the teeth of the gift horse perfect and above blame. Our young Food Minister, who has come into office for the first time, has been bravely struggling with the food problem. The Food Portfolio has proved the graveyard of many an experienced, able and tried politician. Our Hon. Food Minister has been carrying on well and let us stand by him."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not easy to say all that we want to say within the short time allotted

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to us. Although you were pleased to give me half an hour, I consider it very inadequate. The Hon. Food Minister took more than an hour in initiating the debate and in the reply he is likely to take much more time. Anyway, I will not go in great detail. I want to submit that the conditions in this State are the accumulated result of the neglect of the past five or six years in particular, leave alone the neglect of some decades prior to that. My contention is that steps which should have been taken within the last five years were not taken by the Government either at the Centre or in the State. I blame nobody in particular; I blame no party in particular, but I blame only our own fate and the fate of the innocent millions of this country. I feel that the Government have not understood the urgency or the seriousness of the problem at all even now. The Planning Commission took two years to produce the Five-Year Plan, and till another nine months more, it will not be able to formulate any plan for increased food production in this State. Three years are going to elapse before the Commission is able to come to any conclusion. If there was any Planning Commission which felt the urgency of the needs of the food situation in this State, if there was any Central Government or any State Government which felt the urgency, things would not have moved in this very leisurely way. The Planning Commission has just included some schemes in the Supplementary Plan. But schemes for utilizing the Krishna waters have not yet been formulated. The matter is still under discussion and the Commission wants nine months more to come to a conclusion as regards the plan for the full use of the vast unused waters of the Krishna river which has always been inviting Government experts to come and utilize them. The river has always extended its welcome in wave and bubble, song and foam and has been saying : ' Come and use me. I will give food not only to the area through which I am passing, I will wipe out the entire deficit in the State '. But the minds and ears of the Government are closed. They are not responsive; they run after phantoms and delusions !

" As I said, it is as the accumulated result of the neglect in the past that the whole State has become famine-stricken. The cry of shortage of food has been heard not only from the Members representing districts like Cuddapah, Kurnool, Bellary, Anantapur and Chittoor, but also from the Members representing areas which are declared self-sufficient or surplus. The upland areas of the Godavari district, where there is the mighty Godavari Dam, are also in the same position as Cuddapah, Kurnool and Chittoor. The dry areas of Coimbatore and North Arcot districts are also in a similar position. For the matter of that, is there any district from which the cry has not come that a large part of it has been famine-stricken? Without going further into the matter, I submit 11-30 a.m. that this Government must wake up at least now and feel the urgency.

" As long as we get the rice that we want and as long as our families get what we want, probably we do not feel the urgency. The Public Works Department does not co-ordinate its work with

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the Food Department, and as long as the Agriculture Department does not co-ordinate with these two departments, it is impossible for us to get along. The engineers are a very slow-moving machinery. They investigate a scheme not in one or two years. They take twenty to thirty years for gestation. Even for the famous Krishna-Pennar Project, which is as old as 1903 they took three years more to produce a scheme which has now been greatly condemned by great engineers. But why did they do so? They did so because they did not feel the urgency of the food problem. They did not know where the water was running. They went on mooning as it were, and they produced a scheme. It was re-examined; several questions have been put as to the recommendations of that Technical Committee which examined it. But we have not got replies from the Government. The Planning Commission has not yet published the scheme. Only to-day, I asked the Public Works Minister to say what are the schemes that have been recommended by the Government of Madras for inclusion in the Supplementary Plan of the Planning Commission. I put this question not to lay on this Government the blame for all the previous neglect. But I put the question to know from this Government whether they felt the urgency of the food problem, and what steps they were going to take. What did the Hon. Minister say? In a leisurely way, he said, knowing full well that the entire money allotted to the Madras State under the Five-Year Plan is Rs. 140 crores and in the second Supplementary Plan of the Central Government the money allotted is Rs. 40 crores, that the Krishna–Pennar Stage I, Vaigai, Gandikota, Amaravathy Reservoir, Kanhirapuzha Reservoir, Sattanur Project, Budameru Reservoir, Krishnagiri Reservoir, Grow More Food and Minor Irrigation Projects, Ramapadasagar Stage I, etc., have been recommended to the Planning Commission for inclusion in the Supplementary Plan. Every scheme that one can conceivably think of has been recommended for inclusion. I ask whether a Government with a full sense of responsibility would give a list of all the available schemes to be included in, and executed under, the Five-Year Plan to wipe out the deficit of the State in rice? Apparently the Government are not serious. In reply to my question, the Government said 'Krishna-Pennar Stage I'. What is that stage? It is seen from the answer what the present Government are considering. Sir, I expected, if I may be pardoned for saying so, some sense of responsibility when my question was answered to-day. When already the Technical Committee has made certain recommendations and those recommendations were considered by this Government and forwarded to the Planning Commission, and engineers from here went and discussed these matters—in a day or two they are going to publish their recommendations—what did the Public Works Minister say? He simply said that this Government sent their recommendations in August 1951. This is the answer which he gives to-day, the 12th December 1952, totally ignoring all the intervening events. I am only pointing this out to you to show that this Government have not yet understood the seriousness of the problem. Of course the Hon. the Food Minister is very particular, because if he has got certain

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supplies, he wants to distribute them as well as he can. That is all his lookout. The Hon. the Public Works Minister has not been co-operating with the Food Minister. I am not saying this by way of complaint against him or to defend, the Hon. Minister Subramaniam for his inability to come to the rescue of the starving millions of the people. What I mean is that the whole system is so bad, and there is no sense of responsibility anywhere. Nobody wants to take responsibility. If this Government are serious, they must take only schemes which will wipe out our deficit in 2, 3, or 4 or 5 years at the most. There is no use of giving out a long list, and flinging it on the face of the Commission, saying, ' do what you like '. There is one other point. In regard to the Krishna-Pennar Project, I wanted to put supplementary questions, but I had not the time to put them. Discussions have been going on about this scheme. Who were the engineers that were sent by this Government for discussions? Was the Chief Engineer deputed to the Engineers' Conference either in Hyderabad or in Delhi? My information is that he has not been sent. Who is it that will impress upon the Central Government and the Planning Commission the urgency of our food problem? The real food problem in our State, as everybody knows, is not the problem of distribution. It is the problem of production and increased production in the quickest possible time in the most economical manner possible. Engineers have always been saying that we must throw dams on rivers where there is plenty of water, and which is now going to waste. If we throw some dams on rivers at the lowest reaches instead of allowing the water to go into the sea, and thus make attempts to conserve water, we can convert single crop lands into double crop lands. Some engineers suggested the construction of these dams and as a result they got into disfavour of the Madras Government. They had to get away to Delhi. This is the way in which things were being done here. The Public Works Minister said that he had recommended the Krishna-Pennar Stage I Scheme for increased production of food. What is that Stage I, he was not clear. The Government sent that recommendation in August 1951 according to him. But the present recommendation is different. The Khosla Committee, to meet the needs of Rayalaseema area in particular, have recommended a totally different scheme. They have recommended the remodelling of the existing Kurnool-Cuddapah canal to serve the famine-stricken areas of Rayalaseema. Has this been included in the scheme? They have included the excavation of Kavali, Kandukur, and Krishna-Pennar Project, Stage I, to secure quick and increased production of rice. I want to know from the Government whether these schemes have been included in the present recommendation? The Technical Committee advised the construction of a high dam on the Krishna at Nandikonda in the first stage itself. I want to know whether the Government have taken any steps in regard to this. Whether they agreed with this recommendation or disagreed, or whether they sent their Chief Engineer or other engineers for discussions upon this point with the Planning Commission, I want to know. They have said that canals on both banks of the Nandikonda project should be

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excavated to irrigate the dry areas of Guntur and Nellore, and areas south of Pennar up to Madras. That is the first stage of the project which the Technical Committee recommended to the Planning Commission. What have this Government done? While talking of the food problem, I certainly sympathise with the Food Minister who is faced with the problem of distribution. I know his difficulties. When there is a deficit, there is very great difficulty in distribution. When Government take the responsibility for distribution, the difficulty is even more. But I am asking whether the Irrigation Department of this Government has been co-operating. It is not co-operating. All our plans of control, de-control, or re-control or zonal system will not help us unless we feel the urgency of increased production. What are the original recommendations to the Planning Commission? They recommended the inclusion of schemes which will give an yield of 2·7 lakh tons of rice. Yesterday the Food Minister said that our deficit was usually running between 3½ lakh tons and 5 lakh tons. What is the use of our plans if they are aimed at a target of only 2·5 million tons of rice? This was all that was provided in the Government's first recommendation to be included in the Draft Plan. The supplemental plan is really no plan, because the Government have included all schemes only to satisfy all the Members, before elections. Really this is strange. We should not look at it from the point of view of party politics.

11-40 a.m. "If the Central Government have appointed a Planning Commission, we must have some State Commission also and that Commission must be kept aloof from party and power politics. It must be a self-propelling machine and it must prepare a plan. It must start its work and it must continue it, whatever parties may be in power. Parties may come and go, but the Planning Commission must remain and the execution of irrigation projects must continue. Nothing of this kind has been done. Project after project is simply shilly-shallied and we are now in this sorry state. I have received a telegram from East Godavari describing the conditions there. Will anybody believe that in Godavari there could be famine? But yet it is there. In the upland taluks of Krishna, there is famine. The telegram reads as follows :—

'Godavar river failed June, July, August, tail-end coast villages almost total failure of crops upland villages. Pray plead exemption of levy.'

Apart from production, now there is the levy system. All that these people are saying is, 'Save us from this levy because all the crops have failed'. There is not sufficient food for going round. If only we took sufficient interest in time and converted all the single-crop areas and the delta areas into double-crop areas, we would have been able to make our State self-sufficient. But we did not do it. I do not blame this Government now. I only want that the attitude shown in the answer given by the Hon. Sri Ranga Reddi must change forthwith, if the Government want any co-operation from us. (Interruption.) You do not recommend but the hon. Gentleman comes and says with all seriousness that he has recommended a dozen projects. We must be bent upon more food production.

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The Hon. the Food Minister must know why I am saying these things. We must be more serious and push up those plans which will easily give us the largest amount of rice and at places where there are land and water available. Therefore, the question of deficit, which has been long-standing, cannot be solved unless we become more businessminded and seriousminded, in this matter, and feel the urgency much more than we have done hitherto.

" I may also draw the attention of the Hon. the Food Minister to the fact that in certain years the Central Government gave us a good deal of money for certain purposes. In 1947–48 they gave us Rs. 625 lakhs, in 1948–49 they gave us Rs. 442 lakhs and in 1949–50 they gave us Rs. 500 lakhs. But what happened? This block grant also was not properly or fully spent. This Government had to surrender Rs. 6 crores out of it. If this sum of Rs. 6 crores had been put in my hands, I would have constructed a dam across the Krishna at Pulichintala and in three years, that is by now, I would have wiped out the deficit in the State. But the Government simply surrendered it. I submit hereafter such things should not happen. More seriousness must be attached to food production work. (Interruption by the Hon. Sri Subramaniam.) You are concerned only with food distribution; do not worry yourself."

MR. SPEAKER—" The hon. Member refers to the Hon. Minister and not to me."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM—" Yes, Sir. I only mean the Hon. Minister and not you. You are connected with everything that happens in this House."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I am also connected with everything here."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Sir, I need not go further into these matters.

" Then, I come to the question of control and decontrol. Those who criticize the decontrol policy must clearly understand that neither was it there in 1948 nor is there now full decontrol. The results of the policy can be assessed only if there is real decontrol as against control. At present, there is only a modified form of control and any modified form of control is bound to show distortions, create scarcity pockets and push up the prices. I am one of those who always believed that we can have full controls if we can work them successfully and if we have got a full complement of honest officers and honest dealers to work them. If we do not have them and we cannot have them, then we must leave the matter to the people themselves. Only, we must give them more facilities to produce more and to transport their produce. We must give them more facilities to move their stocks from place to place wherever supplies are needed. The Government must do the one or the other. If they do either of these things, there will not be so many distortions. In this world where Governments are running and where all people do not have all kinds of freedom—nor

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is it desirable for everybody to have all kinds of freedom—there are bound to be certain distortions and imbalances in the distribution of the stocks available. There is no doubt about it. But the Government have to either completely control them or allow things to take their own shape, subject only to an overall or general control. Experience has proved that this Government cannot work the controls effectively. We have found, to our cost, that the Government were not able to manage this business. And rightly, if you, Sir, will remember, I had always been pressing on the floor of the House that the control system was bad and that at least we might have it in a modified form, by creating zones. When the zonal system was introduced, though late it was therefore to my satisfaction. But this was not the exact zonal system which I had in my mind. The only zone which was created with some sense of realism was the northernmost zone consisting of Srikakulam, Visakhapatnam and East Godavari. If there is no failure of rain, it is a fairly self-sufficient area. That is why the distortions in that area are not so great as the distortions produced in other areas. But what have the Government done in Guntur and Rayalaseema? The surplus in Guntur is not enough to feed Rayalaseema completely. So, that zone was wrongly delimited. That is why the whole of Rayalaseema is now feeling the difficulty. This has produced reactions in other areas also. The big surplus districts of West Godavari, East Godavari and Nellore are combined with the central zone and all the stocks there which hitherto were going to feed the people of Rayalaseema area are now flowing southwards, with the result that even people in the areas where there was surplus production are suffering. Only to-day we find a newspaper report from Vijayavada that all the rice is being marketed southwards: it is bound to happen so; because, a wrong zone has been created. In fact, I have always been saying that all the twelve Telugu districts, excluding Madras, should be constituted into one zone. If that is done, I promise that we will not ask the Government to import one speck of grain for us. In the twelve Telugu districts we have got sufficient rice for us. Not only that. By a system of easy levy we shall give for the southern area one lakh tons extra. Let the Government leave us to ourselves. Then they will have a better advantage in the dispersal of their officers. They can concentrate their officers in the deficit areas. Then there will be no internal cross-movements and the wagon position will become easy. I have always been suggesting that in the southern areas also, the more acceptable position would be to create self-sufficient zones, as long as there are controls and to localize the deficit only to one or two zones. Then all the imports of food and the surplus food from the surplus areas can be carried straight to those zones. It will be easy of management and we need not spend Rs. 120 lakhs on the Civil Supplies Department."

(An hon. Member was talking with his neighbour in the Chamber.)

Mr. Speaker :—" The hon. Member sitting in the front, if he wants to talk with his neighbour, must go outside and talk."

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* Sri T. VISWANATHAM :—" Immediately after deconlrol, about 4 lakh tons were frozen in the hands of procurement agents. The immediate result was prices shot up. One cannot think of buffer stocks in deficit States. Buffer stocks and deficit States do not go together. It is not possible to do it because there is always a running deficit and if we withdraw a large amount of rice from circulation altogether, what really happens is the prices are pushed up. For, more people have to go into the free market wherever rice is available, and offer more money and purchase it. If controls cannot be removed now, the only course is to re-align the zones into four self-sufficient areas and two deficit areas, and take all the surplus available in the surplus areas and import straight into the deficit zones. That will work better.

" If my voice is to prevail, I would even say that Orissa, Central 11-50
Provinces and Madras should be made into one zone. I would a.m.
like to suggest to the Food Minister of the Government of India that the Central Provinces, Orissa and Madras States and also Travancore might be combined into one zone. If that is done, I give them a guarantee here and now that we will not bother the Central Government about imports at all. The whole zone will be self-sufficient, I have no doubt about that. The Central Government then will not need to worry about these States and they can very well attend to the food problems of the other States in India. If they listen to this advice of mine, they can lessen the hardships of the people. If, however, they do not listen to this advice, then I can only say that it is our misfortune to be ruled by them.

" Even now, according to the levy system, what has happened? It is a very heavy levy. I shall presently give some figures of paddy production per acre from the season and crop report relating to East Godavari, West Godavari, Guntur, Krishna and Tanjore districts, which are the places now affected by the levy order. They are as follows :—

East Godavari—1,400 lb. per acre.

West Godavari—1,400 lb. per acre.

Guntur—1,620 lb. per acre.

Krishna—1,170 lb. per acre.

Tanjore—1,487 lb. per acre.

Figures are taken from the Season and Crop report for 1949–50.

" This shows that the yield of paddy from these areas is 1,400 lb. per acre. People may not know the exact pounds and ounces, but they very well know what the lands yield. A complaint therefore has been made that some difference has been made between Tanjore and Godavari delta areas. (Interruption.) The Hon. Food Minister may say that it is all due to linguistic prejudices. I may tell him that it is not so. Whatever he may say, things will be understood in a different way in a different context. But the fact remains that the production in both the areas is more or less the same. When we look at the procurement figures, we find that they only prove what we have been crying about on the floor of the House,

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viz., that there was greater and more intensive procurement in the Godavari area than in the Tanjore district. That is the real fact."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" No, no. The hon. Member's complaint is wrong."

(Hon. Sri C. Subramaniam and Sri T. Viswanatham were both seen standing.)

MR. SPEAKER :—" Order, order. Two hon. Members should not stand at the same time."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" I am sorry, Sir. I did not notice it. Otherwise, I would have sat down and would have preferred to hear the Hon. Food Minister, as he gives us food." (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member has only five more minutes."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Sir, I have not even come half my way. Yet, when you ring the bell, I will close my speech and sit down. Because, I have been saying these things on a number of previous occasions. I am only trying to impress upon this Government the urgency of this matter. The Hon. Minister will say that this levy is based upon the procurement figures. Still, I say that even the procurement basis is wrong, because the yield per acre must be the basis. After going through the figures given in the season and crop report, I feel that when the yield is the same in two areas, the rate of procurement should also be the same in the two areas. Apart from that, the difference between the rates in one delta and another is very great. After all, the yield is only 10 to 12 bags. That being the case, it is too much to ask for 5 bags, which will have another bad result. As the quantity that the landowner or the cultivator is allowed to keep with him for his use is not at all sufficient for him, he will have to go to the open market for getting his requirements. The rich people, who the Hon. Minister said could take advantage of the open market and buy their requirements, would buy large quantities in the open market and thus push up the prices. This will shoot up prices in the open market generally. That is why I say that we must have easy rates, whether it is of taxation or of levy. If only the Government reduce the burden on the producers and also make the rates of levy easy, they can hope for much better results. Otherwise, their purpose will be defeated.

" Sir, the Hon. Minister said that in regard to all these matters, there must be people's co-operation and confidence. I have absolutely no doubt that public co-operation is necessary and for my part I can say that I am quite willing to give my co-operation and confidence. But unfortunately it is only fifty per cent as there is no co-operation from the other side, I mean from the Government side. I am sorry to state that the Government have absolutely no sense of confidence in non-official agencies and in the Opposition.

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They don't want our co-operation. They do not believe in our statements. They think that people's complaints are exaggerated. Everything seems to be a hush-hush policy. Information is not given. Reports are not placed on the table of the House. Even to-day with regard to a very important matter—the report of the Technical Committee of the Planning Commission—the Hon. Public Works Minister was not prepared to state what exactly has happened in September 1951 and thereafter. He wants to keep us in the dark. That is the position and yet the Government want our co-operation. I would like to respectfully ask how they can expect our co-operation in the present state of affairs. Courtesies and co-operation are always mutual. We are ready to co-operate, because this is a matter relating to the food problem. But how can we co-operate with men who do not trust us, who do not have confidence in us and who have only a hush-hush policy? If this Government want public co-operation—whether it is with regard to control or decontrol, whether it is with regard to zonal system, or the irrigation projects which they have to take up for wiping out the food deficit or any other matter—they must believe the people and they must take the people into their confidence. Then only they can succeed in a democratic set-up. Otherwise, the democratic set-up itself will not work well and there is no use in the Government's blaming the Opposition Members.''

* THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—'' Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not think I shall deal in a concrete and detailed manner with the problems that have been debated here, because I believe my Colleague is much more competent to deal with them than I can ever try to do. He will deal with them in course of time. But I only wish to dwell on one particular aspect of the matter. Most of the speakers have complimented the Government on their policy of relaxation of controls. They have, I think, on the whole approved of this relaxation for which this Government was responsible. There have been complaints as to the consequences of such relaxation from hon. Members who spoke from the Opposition benches. Even there, the criticism of the Government's policy as to relaxation was not very strong and very clear. They seemed to approve of relaxation. They only desired more satisfactory results. Generally, so far as the House is concerned, I believe we have secured endorsement from the representatives, elected representatives of the people of this country, for the policy of relaxation which we have tried. Faults there are, defects there are certainly and disappointments too there are certainly! I for instance believed that the large producers of rice in Tanjore and other places would not take advantage of the relaxation, but would play fair. I am afraid that a large number of people began to help the shooting up of prices by making the best of their chances when they occurred. These are disappointments. But we cannot turn over from one policy to another in this modern world without having to bear with some of these consequences. A great deal of confusion has arisen, on account merely of words, in this connexion. Let me be precise. Confusion has arisen merely on account of the meaning of words. Some people in high places would like to call the policy, as one of control

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with a certain amount of relaxation. Other people would like to call it as a policy of decontrol with a certain amount of stringency and restriction. Whether it is restricted decontrol or relaxed control, the name does not matter. What we have to deal with is what exactly we have to live under, what system we have to live under. One is reminded in this country always of our old quarrels between the Advaitins and the Visishtadvaitins. Not much different from them is this dispute between relaxed control and restricted decontrol. I think, therefore, we had better not quarrel about words or about who wins or who loses. Whether it is the Advaitins or the Visishtadvaitins, it does not matter provided we are pious and provided we follow the laws of morality and act in fear of God. In the same manner, if only people acted properly—traders and producers—then there would be no difficulty, whether we call the system by the one name or the other. I have no doubt in my mind that in the long run, until we arrive at a state of mind in our country, when men will forget their own interests and think only of public and national interests, we must give an interest, to the man who produces, in the land. Until that good time arrives, we must provide a sufficient amount of interest in the land and the produce in order to see that men work hard and produce rice or wheat or millet.

" Sir, in the last debate in this House on this important matter, Members pledged to the theories of socialism and of communism, vied with one another in pleading for the small peasant and his interests. What is the inference I draw from it? The inference that I draw from it is this. Even Members opposite who swear by communism and by a planned economy believe that we must give an interest in the land and the produce to the farmer, if we expect the farmer to produce more. And that is why I firmly believe, in spite of contrary opinions among my Friends as well as among others, that if we wish really to increase production of food in our country, we must allow the producer of the food a free market for what he produces and what he achieves by way of production. If we strangle him by restrictions and regulations which he cannot bear, if we make him walk about, like a prisoner or a thief, carrying his own produce in order to sell it surreptitiously, he cannot have an interest to produce food. Therefore, I think if we want to succeed in our policy of growing more food in our country, we must enable the farmer more and more, within limits of course, to feel that he is free, that what he produces is his own and that he can make the best of it. The more the restrictions we put the less will be his interest in production. The less the restrictions we put, the more will he be enthusiastic in doing work and producing more. In spite of giving him a loan for digging a well, a loan for buying cattle and a loan for buying manure and producing food, if ultimately we say that he has to give up what he has produced to the oppressive procurement officer, then what interest can he have in the production of food? Therefore, this Government will try, within the limits imposed by the general land policy of the Government, within the restrictions imposed upon us by the Central Government and those imposed by the integrated economy of the country, under which we have

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to live and under which we buy and import food from abroad, to pursue a policy which will ensure maximum food production. We cannot have a system of complete decontrol inside Madras and at the same time ask neighbouring States to procure and give us food. That is the problem we have to face. So, within the limits placed on us and within the restrictions imposed upon us by the necessity of the situation and by the policies followed by the Government at the Centre, we have, in my opinion, more and more to relax control so that we might create the initiative for production. That is the basic policy which I believe will help us. It is not theory, it is not an academical dispute between control and decontrol. It is really weighing out by expediency and forethought the amount of restriction that we should put on the producer and the amount of relaxation of control that should be given to the producer and the distributor. Even the distributor, the man who trades in these things, is not a mere Satan as some people imagine. He too does work. He finances before he can buy. He has to keep money and pay it to the farmer from whom ultimately he buys. He finances both production and distribution of food. Then there is transport. He has to transport the grains and be looking after the commodity. All this is involved in the business of wholesale and retail selling. Have we got warehouses to keep all the produce at one central place? No. We have to depend on the retailer and the wholesaler, who do partly the necessary work of production, distribution, warehousing and the like. They too will have to be given a certain amount of interest in their work. If we treat the trader as a blackguard from beginning to end and if we do not give him the freedom that he requires to put in hard work, we cannot make him do his work honestly or properly so that it is always a balancing between how much restriction we place on the man and how much freedom we give him. Therein lies statesmanship or administrative ability or good judgment or forethought. Mere views will not produce wisdom. We will have to act. It is easy to point out defects. It is easy to criticise. But it is difficult to know beforehand the defects and to order a policy and watch the consequences. It is easy to find fault. But finding fault is of two types. One is merely finding fault and the other is the "co-operation" that was referred to by Mr. T. Viswanatham. I am one with him entirely in what he said. I most cordially reciprocate his demand. I say all the co-operation that he desires will be given to him. Only we misunderstand sometimes each one of us what the other does. Sir, there is criticism that there is no co-operation forthcoming from us and that there is only secretiveness. Let me assure the House on behalf of the Government that I stand for no secretiveness. But where a duty is cast upon me to keep a paper or an object secret, I must fulfil my obligation. But in all these matters, my friends, Mr. Viswanatham and Mr. Ramamurthi and their colleagues ask for information. I am prepared to give any information on which no ban is placed by an external authority and this information will always be given to my friends. I am prepared, in some cases, even to hand over the whole of the so-called

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Secretariat files to the opposite side to look from A to Z and to understand everything. There will be complete co-operation on our part. But I think the misunderstandings must gradually dissolve and I am sure that Mr. Viswanatham will get all the co-operation that he wants. It need not be fifty per cent as he said. It may be cent per cent on both sides. Then there will be no difficulty. Sir, I have made my personal position in regard to the food policy perfectly clear. I hope shall not be misunderstood over the use of words, mere words, either one or the other.

"Sir, Mr. Ramamurthi referred the other day to some past history in a different context which has some relevancy to-day. Let not Mr. Ramamurthi imagine that I believe in removing all controls. He referred to past history in 1946. He said I sailed with them when I was out of the Congress between 1942 and 1946. He called it by specific names, to which I do not attach much importance. On the contrary, let me tell him, it was the Communists that were on the right side at that time because Russia was in the War at that time. The Communists were believed to help the Government at that time. What I wanted then was not either Russia or the other. What I wanted was that we should not hand over the country, our country, to Japan. Therefore, I was at one with that party at the time. Therefore it was that I moved from place to place in spite of obloquy and the risk involved. I did not stop with mere words. I went about and preached my doctrine of opposing Japan. Of course, the Communist party was then led by Mr. P. C. Joshi. I am only sorry that he is not the leader of the party now. He was very helpful and very friendly to me. He was with me rather than I was with him or the Communists as was said by Mr. Ramamurthi. There was no necessity for me to go out for assistance from other parties. I was always in a perfectly safe position because I stood by what I felt was right. I had no fear about it. I had no shame about it. There was nothing wrong in my telling people what I believed to be right. Gandhiji understood it and Gandhiji's colleagues understood it. And that is why I was ready for co-operation with the Congress once the quarrel was over. That is why they were also ready for co-operation once the quarrel was over. It was not as if once I admired the Communists. As for admiration of the Communists, even now I admire the Soviet
12-10 p.m. Government. There is no doubt about it. But I make a distinction between my Friends on the other side now and the Soviet Government in this matter regarding the admiration that I had for the Soviet Government. The hon. Member, Mr. Ramamurthi was saying that in my conversations with him, I praised Russian Communism. (Sri P. Ramamurthi: 'No, no.'). Probably it might be, he referred to some speeches of mine. Much before that, a few years before that, when the War was going on, when Russia had won alongside of the Allies, at that time we were still working in the Congress Working Committee, I and my brothers there. Pandit Jahwarlal and myself were on the same Working Committee; at that time we drafted a resolution and both supported the resolution and in that we paid the highest compliments

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and expressed admiration for the Soviet Government. They had fought and won a most terrible war against the Germans at that time. That phase of the war was over. It was not only there in the speech referred to by the hon. Member, Mr. Ramamurthi, but even earlier I appreciated the strength of the Socialist doctrine. But the point now to be remembered is that that strength of the Soviet Government came out of previous liquidation. Its feature was liquidating all enemies to show strength and show solidarity and show progress. But in the process of liquidation, the violence that was necessary, and the crime that was necessary for producing that large effect, we do not want here. We do not want that liquidation. So there is great distinction between my admiration for the Russian war against Germany and the position that we have now to deal with namely, that we desire to progress that we desire to develop without any process of liquidation of any large group of people. Therefore we need not confuse one with the other.

" Hon. Member, Mr. Jeevanandam is not here I believe. He generally makes his speech and disappears. That seems to be his practice. It is also the same thing with hon. Member Mr. Muthiah Chettiar. Now hon. Member Mr. Jeevanandam quoted from Bharati the other day and said : ' Here is your Bharati whom you worship, for whom you have built memorials, whose books you publish and all that. He said such and such a thing.' Now let me tell hon. Friends, that poets are not debating society members or members of legislative bodies. Poets have many moods. Every poet must be of many moods. A certain critic writing about Tennyson said : ' Poets are of many moods. Their poetry is like ' shot silk '—that is to say they are like what we call ' Anjur ' silk and ' Meghavarnam ' silk saree (மேகவர்ணப்புடவை) If we look at it one way it shines a brilliant colour, if we look at it another way it shines a different colour, this way one colour, that way another colour, blue, violet, orange, green, red and so on. The poet's mood is like that. ' Shot silk ' called ' Anjur ' in our own language is very beautiful when looked at from various angles. This shimmering variety of the colours of the rainbow, we can see in all poetry. Sometimes a poet sings in one language and sometimes in another language. Let us not forget, Bharati is no less appreciative of our own civilization and our own Vedanta. Let hon. Member Sri Jeevanandam turn over the volumes of Bharati's poems. There he will find a lot to learn about our philosophy and Vedanta. If he only reads them properly he will give up the party to which he belongs just now." (Laughter.)

Sri K. VINAYAKAM :—" He quoted from Tiruvalluvar."

* The Hon. Sri C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" He quoted first from Bharati. As for Tiruvalluvar he too was a poet. The shimmering colours are there in his poetry also. If only people know how to read Tiruvalluvar, if only they know to read Tiruvalluvar properly without previous bias and prejudice and not read Tiruvalluwar in order to find a quotation but read Tiruvalluvar to

know and understand him, they will learn much and benefit much. There are two ways of studying, one to get what you want and sell the book afterwards and another is to read and understand it and become a better man. I wish everybody who knows Tamil reads Tiruvalluvar and becomes a discipine in the true sense. That is so much for qutations.

" The hon. Member Sri Ramamurthi referred with a certain amount of affection to my previous history. Let me also give him more than what he has tried to steal, so to say, from my speeches here and there. In the year 1930, I gave a series of talks in prison. At that time I explained appreciatively the system to which now the hon. Member Mr. Ramamurthi and others pay homage. But that was many years ago. Recently during the period referred to by Mr. Ramamurthi, in 1946, a Tamil book of mine was translated into English, with the unattractive name of 'Vedanta.' I wrote a preface to the translation. My hon. Friends on the other side may well quote it against me. I am not afraid of inconsistency. I am humble enough. I do not think I am a great man. But inconsistency is the hobgoblin of small men. Let me remind people of that truth which was expressed more than once by big people and repeated also by Gandhiji. But without pretending to be a great man, I am not frightened by inconsistency. I do not think there is anything inconsistent in development and change. The sucking babe is not inconsistent with the grown up young man who chews his food with all his teeth. The old man is not inconsistent with the young man. It is a process of evolution. I would, therefore, advise hon. Members on the other side not to be afraid of inconsistency but to come over, whenever they feel like it, to my side. (Laughter.) Let them not be afraid of it. Inconsistency is a sign of progress. It is a wrong term for changes that take place genuinely and honestly. Of course a liar could be discovered by inconsistency. But that is of a different kind as when we cross-examine a perjured witness, we find out the truth from his inconsistency. But a gradual, sincere and honest inconsistency is a sign of growth.

" I would request my hon. Friends to quote from what I have written deliberately on the very subject before us. That is my policy. It shows not only what I hold in common with hon. Friends on the other side but also shows the difference between the other side and me. I wrote these words in 1944 or 1945. But it was translated in 1946.

' Planned co-operative economy is sought to be enforced in most civilised countries in place of profit motive, discarding the so-called civil liberty of private competition "—I call private competition a false civil liberty, it is only a make-belief—"But this is sought to be done without creating the necessary social culture therefor and depending on the coercive power of the state. But a change of this farreaching character cannot be made with success by mere external authority however powerful. We must have a culture and generally accepted code of spiritual values which work as a law from within. Without such spiritual control mere material planning results in irrigation and must need culminate in wide-spread corruption and fraud. Vedanta and the ethic which follows from it and which is expanded and fully set out in the Bagavad Gita are pre-eminently fitted to serve as the spiritual basis for planned co-operative community life wherein every one must work according to capacity and receive according to need.

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'If men and women should work without aiming at personal profit and with an eye only to the welfare of the community, just this is the way of life taught in the Bhagavad-Gita.' 12-20 p.m.

This is the way of life the Communists here stand for and must stand for if they hope to build up the way of life they believe in.

'It lays emphasis on the equal dignity and sacredness of all labour that falls to one's lot, and on honest disinterested effort. Indeed the Gita lays down in a unique manner the socialist doctrine in terms of religion. The performance of one's allotted task, says the Gita, is nothing less than worship of God in the truest sense.

'Everywhere in the civilized world, men want a wise allotm nt of work to indivi luals as well as groups in accordance with demands of the general interest in place of *laissez faire*. We have had enough of the divine right to make private profit. If we want society to control individual life so as to produce this result, we cannot depend only on the spy and the policeman watching over citizens. We must build up a spiritual life which makes joy out of discharge of duty. We must bring into being a law that acts from within, making the execution of State imposed laws easy. In Vedanta we have a teaching rooted in immemorial tradition in India which can serve as the spiritual and cultural basis for a new and juster economy of life.'

" Sir, I shall not weary this House further with mixed matter. But I appeal to my Communists friends, to adopt a spiritual basis for Communist life. Only then will they succeed and not till then."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not propose to go into those matters that were raised by the Hon. Chief Minister during the course of this debate. I consider that they are extraneous to the subject-matter which we are at present discussing. I would also like to give my own views of the very Vedanta on which the Hon. Cheif Minister has tried to base his arguments. Anyway that is not the subject-matter which we are discussing now.

" Sir, I am now concerned with the question of providing food for the 55 million people of this State and it is one of the most basic and important problems facing the people of this State to-day as it is facing the people of this entire country. First of all, I would like very strongly to place my protest against the manner in which the Government are treating this very important question. Policies are laid down, policies were laid down without any consultation whatsoever with the Members of this House and it required six long months for the Government to make up their minds to have a discussion on the new policy of decontrol undertaken by the Government. Sir, it might be said that there was the Budget debate and that food also formed part of the Budget and therefore we need not discuss it separately. I submit, Sir, that that is not the proper way of putting things. Of course, in the Budget debate so many subjects were discussed, but this basic question of food which requires concentrated attention could not be discussed in a Budget debate. Even to-day, when we are to discuss this basic question, the proposition that was moved by the Hon. Sri C. Subramaniam was 'that the Food Situation in the State be taken into consideration.' But while making his speech on the food situation, the Hon. Sri C. Subramaniam did not talk anything about the food situation as such,

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but gave a detailed account of the policy that was pursued by the Government during the last six months and sought to justify this policy on the basis of certain facts and figures. If anyone had listened to his speech, one would have to say that there is no famine in the country, not only in Rayalaseema but in vast areas of other districts also. It would appear as if things are somehow or other easy. The impression created is that we have achieved the purpose and of course there are some difficulties, but nonetheless they will adjust themselves in due course and everything will be all right. Therefore, when we have got to discuss the basic policy which concerns the millions of people of this State, it is natural for us to expect that the Government will give us sufficient time to discuss that policy alone so that the Government may be benefited by the collective discussion and evolve a policy based on such collective discussion by the Members of this House. I must say that even to-day the Government are not prepared to do it. Why? Of course, it is for the Government to explain. When 375 Members of this House have got to take part in a debate of this type, Member after Member is naturally concerned with describing the conditions in his particular constituency rather than taking part in a discussion of the basic policy pursued by the Government."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" It is not our fault."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" The fault of the Government was that they should have treated this basic question as a separate issue and that the entire food policy of the Government should have been allowed to be taken into consideration and lastly that sufficient time should have been allotted for discussion on the food policy so that Member after Member might contribute his best so that the Government might be benefited by the collective discussion. It was their fault that the Government did not choose to benefit by collective discussion. It does not concern us.

" Sir, it took six months for the Government to evolve the policy of decontrol. Much gusto was made about it. If I might be pardoned to say, there was also a sense of arrogance when Hon. Ministers talked about the food problem. I am glad that to-day that sense of arrogance and gusto are absent. Why are they absent to-day? But we shall not deal with it now. The Hon. Minister sought to defend the policy and the Hon. Chief Minister said that because of the fact that there was no concrete criticism made against the policy pursued by the Government, there was general acceptance of the policy from all sides of the House. I would like to submit, Sir, that there was criticism of policy, but the Members of this House did not get an opportunity to make a full, concrete and cogent criticism within the course of the 5 minutes allotted. To-day the Hon. Chief Minister sought to justify the policy on certain grounds. But I would only like to draw the attention of this House to how exactly the Government and the Members of the Government had been shifting their grounds from time to time. Were these grounds on which they sought to defend their policy the same as those when they started

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decontrol? Absolutely not. On the date this decontrol policy was announced over the radio, what were the expectations that were entertained as a result of this policy? When we judge the question whether this policy has succeeded or not, the main criterion is whether food has been made available to the vast millions of people of this State or whether it is a fact that more and more millions of people are to-day starving or are not able to get the food they so badly require. This is the criterion by means of which we can judge its success or otherwise. Sir, I would like 12-30 to remind the Hon. Chief Minister what Mahatma Gandhi once p.m. said, that before hungry people God himself can appear only in the form of bread.

"Whether our people, whether our hungry millons get their daily bread—that is our main criterion. That is the basis on which any policy of decontrol or control of food should be worked. The people should be in a position to purchase their rice requirements at the normal rate. What is it that we find to-day after six months of decontrol? Did the promise of the Hon. Chief Minister that prices would not increase abnormally, come true? What is the price at which rice is being sold in the open market to-day? Is it at the controlled price? No, surely not. We find people buying rice at Rs. 2 and Rs. 1–8–0 per measure. The Government now come and say that they are not responsible for the increase in the price of rice. What was it that the Hon. Chief Minister said while addressing a press conference just two days after the announcement of decontrol? He said, 'I am sure the free market price will soon become very cheap and ultimately we may find it difficult to sell our rice in the fair price shops as we cannot reduce the price to that prevailing in the open market.' That was their expectation. This was again and again reiterated by every Hon. Minister of the Government. They even stated that the Government would find it difficult to dispose of their stocks, because the open market rate would have come down very much in a few months after decontrol. This was the hope which they kindled in the millions of our people. 'Price of rice is sure to come down'—that was their slogan immediately after decontrol. How glaring is the difference that we now find between the price of rice in the open market and in the fair price shops! What is the difference due to? Can the Hon. Chief Minister explain? Of course he has explained it. He now says that his old expectations about the good behaviour of the large number of landlords in Tanjore district had not been fulfilled. It required six long months for him to realize this fact. The same Hon. Chief Minister addressing a huge mass gathering in the Pachayappa's grounds, just two weeks after decontrol said : 'Some of the Communists may come and tell you that prices will increase after decontrol. But on't you believe the Communists. After all it is not the Communists but the mirasdars who produce the foodgrains we require most. These mirasdars come and tell me that prices are sure to come down. I believe the mirasdars. I do not believe the Communists.' Well, that was what the Hon. Chief Minister said at that time. Has his expectation come true?

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What do we find now? What do the statistics which the Hon. Food Minister had been good enough to read yesterday reveal? The Hon. Food Minister had told us that the so-called increase in price of rice is all Communist propaganda and in reality no abnormal increase had taken place. Well, here are the realities. Here is the stark reality. What is the present price of rice obtaining in the open market and what is the controlled rate? Is there not a glaring difference between the two? Did the Communists utter a lie previously when they said that the price of rice will increase after decontrol? The Hon. Food Minister of the Central Government, Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai, also told us : ' Oh, prices are sure to come down. As soon as the kuruvai harvest is over, we will have enough stocks. Prices will definitely fall afterwards '. Well, the kuruvai crop has had its harvest in September. It is three months since then. Have the prices fallen? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Come to conclusions. Give practical suggestions as to how prices could be checked from rising high."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" Yes, we shall give practical suggestions. But before that we have to tell what the Government have done in the matter and we have to point out their mistakes. That is why I requested that a full-dress debate on food should be allowed so that all Members could offer their suggestions. If not in this sitting, at least in the January sitting, let some time be allotted for a full discussion on the food problem.

" What happened after the kuruvai harvest? Did the price register any appreciable decrease? On the other hand it increased. Was it due to any Communist movement? What did the reports coming from Tanjore immediately after the kuruvai harvest show? What did the '*Hindu*' and the '*Indian Express*' say? What did their report show? Immediately after kuruvai harvest, the price of paddy which used to be sold previously at Rs. 23 or 24 per bag rose to Rs. 28 or Rs. 30? What did the Hon. Food Minister say while addressing a meeting of the Lakshmipuram Association just before the kuruvai harvest? He said : ' Don't be afraid; the price of rice will surely come down after the rice from the kuruvai harvest comes into the open market. The present increase in the price of rice is only a transitional one.' Three months have elapsed since that meeting. Has his promise come true? What did this decontrol policy of this Government achieve? It gave ample room for the large body of mirasdars to sell their produce to the common people at prohibitive rates. The whole policy had been based on false foundations. Therefore the specific expectation of the Government that prices are sure to come down after decontrol has not been fulfilled. People are now paying Rs. 2 per measure of rice whereas the controlled price is Re. 0–13–6?

" When this is the stark reality, what is it that the Government say? They come in with some new excuses for the present increase in the price of rice? They have discovered some excuses.

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The Government have procured at the time decontrol was announced only about 7 lakhs of tons from the mirasdars. The available surplus with the landlords was only very little and therefore the prices went up quickly. I would like to ask the Hon. Food Minister whether he discovered the fact only to-day that the Government had procured 7 lakh of tons of rice before the decontrol policy was announced? Or if he had discovered it earlier, why did he give the false promise that prices will surely come down? Secondly, the Government say : ' After all only in surplus areas do we find a small increase in the price of rice. Prices in the deficit areas have not gone up very high? And, we are also told now that the price of rice in the deficit areas has gone up only to the extent of the black-market rate at the time of control. I do not know how many officers the Government deputed to get statistics of black-market price of rice in the deficit areas. I do not know how many records are now kept registering the increases in the price of black-market rice when control was in force. We know full well that the Government was not competent enough to check black-marketing in rice. When such is the case, how can we believe their statement that the prices have increased in the deficit areas only to the extent of the price of black-market rice at the time of control. The other day 12–40 p.m. the Hon. Food Minister was giving us some figures with regard to the rise in the price of rice. Sir, this is what appeared in ' the *Hindu* '. That is what the Hon. Food Minister was referring to in the Chittoor district.

' There has been a steady increase in the prices of all foodgrains during the last fortnight. *Swarnawari* paddy, the harvest of which has almost been concluded, was sold at Rs. 25 a bag at the time of the commencement of the harvest. Now it is being sold at Rs. 35 a bag.'

Now, Sir, the black-market rate which was quoted by the Hon. Food Minister amounted to Rs. 30 a bag. To-day it has gone up far beyond that. In the South Arcot district, which is a deficit district, to-day, the price of rice is Re. 1–8–0 per measure. In Tiruchirappalli district it is Re. 1–4–0 per measure. I can give similar figures for the other districts also. Take the Tirunelveli district; there too, it is sold at the same rate. Now, Sir, all these districts are not surplus districts. The prevailing price to-day is Re. 1–6–0; whereas before decontrol the black-market price was only Re. 1–2–0. Does the Hon. Food Minister know what the price was in his own district of Coimbatore before decontrol and what it is to-day. To-day it is Rs. 1–10–0 per measure in his own district. He can never say that this was the black-market price in his district before decontrol. I know what the price of rice was in 1944–45. Sir, the point I want to make is that for purposes of comparison the criterion is not to compare the present price with the black-market price just before decontrol, but with the price that prevailed just before controls were introduced. Now why was price controlled and fixed at a particular rate? Because the Government wanted to make rice available to the people at a price they could afford to pay. So, for purposes of comparison we should be told to compare the present price with the price which prevailed just before controls were introduced and not with the

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black-market price which prevailed when controls were in force. Therefore, Sir, when the Government ask us to compare the present price with the black-market price, they are not discharging their responsibility as a Government. Now, I make this specific charge chiefly against the Hon. Food Minister, because he has asked us to compare the prices in that way, and also against the Chief Minister. I will even make this charge against the Prime Minister of India. For, he has said that prices in Madras State had already gone below the controlled price and that was why the Madras Government had adopted this policy of decontrol.

" Then, Sir, another argument that was made to-day was with reference to the statistics of food production. They have a tale to tell of their own. The tale that they tell us to-day is entirely different from the tale the Hon. Minister would like to have. Sir, before the war, the average food production of this State ran up to 81 lakhs of tons. I am taking the figure from the publication of the Economic Adviser to the Government. This figure includes both rice and millets. I am taking this figure as the amount required for the consumption of the people after making due allowances for seeds and other things. It was stated at that time that this amount was not sufficient to meet the requirements of this State; and there was a deficit of 5 lakhs of tons. So, Sir, taking the two figures together we may say that the normal requirements of this State is 86 lakhs of tons of foodgrains. Now this is the position taken up by the Economic Adviser to the Government. Now, on the basis of these statistics we find that the normal requirements of this State is 86 lakhs of tons of foodgrains and there was a deficit of 5 lakhs of tons. Sir, according to statistics the population of this State is, say, five and a half crores. During the war period it has increased by 17½ per cent. Then, making an allowance for the fact that children under three years would not require rice for consumption we may say that our food requirements compared to the pre-war period has now gone up by 14 per cent which comes to roughly about one-seventh of pre-war period consumption. So, Sir, the deficit which was already there to the tune of five lakhs has increased by an addition of twelve lakhs, and so, the total deficit comes to 17 lakh tons.

" Now, let me consider what the position is with regard to production. During the last few years the average production per annum was 60 lakhs of tons of rice and 21·2 lakhs of tons of millets. What is expected this year is far far less. According to the statistics given to us by the Hon. Food Minister it is 17 lakhs of tons less than the average production during the pre-war years. That is, our total requirements fall short by 35 lakhs of tons. Our total requirements come to 98 lakhs of tons but our expectations are only 64 lakhs of tons, and so there is a deficit of 34 lakhs of tons. Now we are told that the law of demand and supply will operate. The demand is 98 lakhs of tons and the supply is 64 lakhs. Now how will the law of demand and supply operate? The law of demand and supply is that when the demand is great and the supply is less, or, I shall put it this way, when the demand is far in excess

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of the supply prices of commodities are bound to increase. This is the law of demand and supply as per the political economists. Now the Hon. Food Minister wants us to believe that that will not happen. He has entirely reformulated the law of demand and supply. He has said that the greater the demand and less the supply the less will be the price. How this will happen I personally do not know. If this theory is accepted, the Hon. Food Minister would get a place among the classical economists like Adam Smith and Ricardo; and posterity will give him a place along with them for this wonderful theory put forward by him!

" Now, Sir, what is it that is going to be done to prevent an increase in prices. We are told to compare the present price with the price ruling in 1947–48, and we are told that after all, prices have not increased. I ask, what was the position in 1947–48. Are we to forget all those factors which prevailed then and which have happened since then? During the interval between that period and to-day, how much havoc has taken place and how much have the people been impoverished. All these things should be considered. Can we forget what happened in 1952, just before decontrol was introduced, when there was a fall in the price of agricultural commodities, in the price of cotton when there was one of the biggest slumps in the country. So, Sir, when you want to compare the present with that period you should take into consideration all those attendant factors. If you bear in mind all these factors and then make the comparison you will see that the prices ruling at present are beyond the capacity of the ordinary people.

" When you make a comparison, have you not got to take into consideration all the attendant factors and see how much the price has increased in relation to the other agricultural commodities that are produced in this State? If you do so, then you will realize that the rise in price during this period is certainly a very heavy one, one beyond the capacity of the ordinary people. Member after Member from either side of the House who participated in this debate has demanded more fair-price shops. What is the significance of that demand? After all, the policy of decontrol of the Government is accepted; and yet, why is it that Member after Member both from the Congress and other benches should demand that more fair-price shops should be opened? The meaning of that demand obviously is that unless rice is made available and other foodstuffs also are made available to the people at control and conscionable rates, the people will have to starve. Already we know that starvation is prevalent in vast tracts of our State. But this fact is being shut out from our eyes, and we are being told that the decontrol policy has succeeded wonderfully. Anyway, Sir, this is not how I understand statistics. 12–50 p.m.

" Again, Sir, it was stated that 7½ lakh tons of paddy and other foodgrains were procured at the time decontrol was introduced and therefore the prices increased. Now, take the statistics furnished by the Finance Minister himself. The expectation for the next

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year is about 6½ lakh tons less than what was procured in 1950–51, —about 3½ lakh of tons of rice and about 3 lakh of tons of millets I think—and we are told that this compares favourably with the total amount procured in the year 1951–52. Even though the Government may not procure that much, the total available surplus in 1952–53 with the producers is going to be probably the same amount as they had procured at the time decontrol was introduced. So, if we are going to be in the same position as we were in at the time decontrol was introduced, what is the guarantee that the landlords or the producers will not behave in the same way as they did during the past six months? How are the people going to be protected against an increase in prices? To that, Sir, there is no answer. "Leave things to themselves; somehow or other, they will adjust themselves"—that is what we are told specifically again and again. Let us not forget the fact that it is precisely because of the fact that the total amount of food produced in our State has been going down year after year that the Government themselves were compelled to reduce their ration commitments from time to time. The quantity of ration allowed to the people was reduced from 1 lb. to 12 oz., then to 10 oz., then again to 8 oz. and 6 oz., and finally it was increased to 7 oz. Why was it that the rice content of the ration was reduced in 1951 to 6 oz? It was because the total amount of rice produced was less by nearly 40 lakhs of tons. After decontrol came, has that production increased? No; the same amount was there. And yet we are told that the prices were expected to be the same. Similarly, we could not increase the rice content of the ration, and yet we are told it is a correct economic theory.

"Sir, having said all this, I would like to point out that the Government are not laying down any guarantee that in the future at least rice and other foodstuffs will be made available to the people at rates at which they can buy. That is why I say that in vast tracts of our State, hunger and starvation are the order of the day. For instance, is food available in Palni and other taluks of the Madurai district, or again in the South Arcot district, to the common people? Is it or is it not a fact that hundreds and thousands of people are moving from their homes to new areas? Sir, I have seen some villages in the Palni and Dindigul taluks. I went to a village and I saw the whole hamlet was deserted except for two old huts; and in those huts two old women were living. When I went and knocked at the door and called for them, they won't come out because they had no clothing. And this is the position in village after village in vast areas of our State. When that is the position, how are these people going to get food at these unconscionable prices? There is no answer to that."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Do you want the answer even now? "

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" No answer came when the Hon. Minister spoke."

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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I gave only facts; and it is only after hearing the criticisms that I could speak about them. I gave out the factual position, so that hon. Members may understand the correct state of things."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" I know no answer is likely to come. If the Minister promises now that in spite of these things, food will be made available to people at 10 annas a measure or at the control rates, certainly we shall test that promise once again as we have tested the promise made at the time of decontrol. I may say at once that unless the present policy is changed, even the promise now made that the prices will come down or will be reduced, will go the same way as the promises that were made at the time of decontrol. I can specifically say that.

" Again, why was this policy of decontrol adopted? It was adopted despite the fact that the Draft Five-Year Plan by which the entire Congress swore, stated that we cannot have any kind of decontrol to-day. They made it absolutely clear. They said—

'The equitable distribution of foodgrains among different sections of the population at reasonable prices has been an object of policy in recent years. The effective discharge of this responsibility is Government's first duty in the economic field. In determining the food policy, therefore, there is no room for any proposal or experiment which detracts from this responsibility or exposes the economy to uncertainty.'

I am not very much enamoured of the Five-Year plan ; but certain fundamental formulations they have made there with regard to the food policy, and I agree with them. They say that it is the primary responsibility of any civilized Government to see that food is made available and distributed equitably among all sections of the people, particularly among the poorer sections of the people. Any Government which claims to be civilized must see to it that food is equitably distributed among all sections of the people. They add—

'The view is sometimes expressed that while complete decontrol of food may not be possible, the essential object of food policy can be secured if only the principal towns are rationed with the help of imported supplies and free movement is established throughout the country, so that supplies may move quickly to all non-rationed areas.'

And meeting all these arguments, they say that conditions at present are not favourable to the continued smooth functioning of the food market in grains . . ."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member seems to be quoting at length. If he wants, he may quote here and there."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" 'So long as shortages continue, it will be possible for traders . . . to charge exhorbitant prices from the needy people.' I submit that this is the Five-Year Plan on the basis of which the Congress fought the elections."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member may continue his speech after lunch."

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[After lunch—3 p.m.]

MR. SPEAKER :—" Mr. Ramamurthi will continue his speech."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, this morning, I was referring to the fact that the hopes that were held out to the people were not fulfilled. It was not with a view to score a point against the Ministry or to point out that the forecast by the Ministry was a failure and the specific forecast that we made at the time decontrol was ordered proved correct. That was not our intention. In what way has this policy worked; whom does it benefit? Having regard to the results of that policy the question arises if that policy should continue or we should seek some other method of ensuring the food of the people. That is what we are concerned with. It is well-known, Sir, that at the time when decontrol was introduced, the bulk of procurement had already taken place from the small producer and whatever was left was mainly with the big landowner. The Hon. the Food Minister made it clear yesterday and he admitted that it was always the case that the big landlords managed to escape procurement and with this stock they managed to blackmarket even during the time when there was both control and full procurement. It is these people, these big people that were able to loot the people,—I use that expression specifically—and make enormous profits out of the blood and toil of the people, the starving people of the State. Should we now continue that policy or should we think of something else? That is the main question to which we should devote our attention. As I pointed out to the House, there is no prospect at all of the Government being able to supply food to the people at reasonable rates with their present policy. The food stocks with the Government are being rapidly depleted and by the time the season ends, there will be practically nothing left with the Government. As far as the existing fair price shops are concerned, reports are reaching us to the effect that even the existing fair price shops are being closed down. In one taluk of Cuddapah alone our report says that out of 43 fair price shops, during the last three or four months, 40 have been closed down and only three are functioning. Even with regard to the functioning of the existing fair price shops, no better certificate regarding them need be given than the certificate given by the Prime Minister of India when he was touring the district of Anantapur. He is reported to have said when he was asked to inspect a fair price shop in Anantapur : ' Do not talk of fair price shops. Simply having half a dozen bags of foodgrains in the fair price shops, you cannot say, that the people are buying their foodgrains there. It is all a farce.' No better certificate is needed."

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" I am sorry, Sir, that Mr. Ramamurthi does not know the temperament of the Prime Minister in a matter such as this. When he is asked for an unnecessary engagement, he says : ' There is nothing wonderful

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in a fair prce shop; a fair price shop is a fair price shop and why do you want me to go there.' These remarks cannot be made out as a sort of evidence about how the administration is going on.''

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—"The Prime Minister knows English and what he was saying. The Prime Minister did not say : 'There is nothing wonderful about these fair price shops.' This is the specific sentence that he is reported to have said : 'It is a farce '. If you just . . .''

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—"If Sri Ramamurthi knows the Prime Minister's circumspection, he will not say so; the Prime Minister will not make a remark about the administration of an institution which he refused to inspect.''

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—"We know our Prime Minister and I have also known our Prime Minister and that is that truth comes out when he is angry; when in an angry mood, he blurts out the truth in spite of the best of desire to be diplomatic. This we know of our Prime Minister. Anyway, I will not dwell on that question now. My question now is what is going to happen with the depleted stocks with the Government and a procurement of about 2 lakhs of tons which will not be sufficient for any long period of time. Even these existing shops will get closed down which means that at the end of the year, the entire people of the State will be left to the mercy of the big landlords of the State. What is the guarantee that the big landlords will behave better in future and what is the guarantee that they will not mulct the people, that they will not charge exorbitant prices and in that way fleece the people of the State? That is one aspect of the question. The second question is: What about the procurement policy adopted by the Government? We know that it is the primary responsibility of the Government to feed the people. Obviously if the Government have got to discharge that responsibility, the question of procuring stocks is very important. Unless the Government procure stocks and have sufficient stocks at their disposal, they cannot feed the people. Regarding the present levy system, might I ask if it will satisfy the requirements of the State and will it enable the Government to discharge their primary responsibility? The main question before us is whether the two lakhs of tons to be got by the levy system and the two lakhs to be imported from abroad, will satisfy the requirements of the people. I say, Sir, that the Government will not be able to discharge their primary responsibility. The levy system, apart from certain inherent defects in it, cannot meet the requirements of the people. I will come to the defects later on. If sufficient stocks for the purpose of feeding the people are to be procured, I say, Sir, that the surplus stocks with the big landlords have got to be procured and for that obviously different methods will have to be used. Certainly I am all for exempting people with small holdings and the limit up to which the exemption will apply can certainly be discussed and settled. There is no difficulty about it. But I do not understand why the big landlords should in their greed be permitted to fleece

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the people? Why should not the Government procure everything that they have in their stocks over and above their requirements? We can leave the small man with about 20 or 25 acres free but above that, I submit, Sir, the entire available stock be it from the individual landlord, or math or religious institution, should be procured and should be made available to the people. Without that, I am afraid the Government will not be able to discharge their responsibility to the people.

3-10 p.m. " With regard to the present levy system, it is obviously different from the old procurement system of the previous years? I know in the past a good amount of paddy stored by the big landlords were not actually procured. That should not be allowed to happen now. But the Government say that people's co-operation is needed in this connexion. How they are going to get the co-operation of the people is a different matter. We, on our part, are certainly prepared to co-operate with the Government if they are going to procure paddy from the rich landlords who have stored them up. But if they are to leave the rich landlords and fleece the common people, we are certainly going to fight it out. That is the specific issue. We will certainly struggle with the people in fighting the mirasdars who have stored up paddy and are keeping the poor people hungry."

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Struggle ! "

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" Yes, struggle. The Hon. Chief Minister may not like that word. But nonetheless the struggle to get their daily bread has been going on between the poor people and the rich landlords for the past seven years. The landlord does not like to give up. The people are there to fight it out. That is why due to the existence of these two tendencies the struggle had always been there. Therefore, I say, that, unless the Government accept their prime responsibility to feed all the people of this State, this vexed question of food cannot be solved.

" I shall now come to the present levy system. I shall speak with reference to Tanjore district. Other Hon. Members may talk about other districts. I say that this levy system makes an invidious distinction. For example, take the fertile taluks of Papanasam, Kumbakonam and Thirukkattuppalli. All these taluks are well-known for their fertility. What is the levy proposed therein? Five bags per acre. On the other hand, take the dry taluks. Take the Nagappattinam taluk. The waram or kuttakai there per acre will amount to 18 kalams. What is the levy here? The same five bags, i.e., 10 kalams. If you take 10 kalams out of 18 kalams what is it that the poor cultivator will have for his sustenance? Take the Papanasam taluk which as I said is noted for its fertility. There the yield per acre is 45 kalams. There also you have the same procurement levy. The landlord has got to surrender only the same 5 bags per acre. The landlord can do anything he likes with the remaining 35 kalams. Why is this invidious distinction? I do not know. If it is the policy of Government to procure as much as possible from the rich mirasdars, we, the people, are here

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to co-operate with them. But surely not when they propose such a levy as the present one. Why can't they evolve a policy by which the surplus left over with the rich mirasdars could be stored in their godowns, so that they may have ready stocks on hand and rush forth with supplies when there is scarcity and when there is a rise in the price-level? I say that this levy ought to differ in the fertile taluks. At the same time, I do not want that the surplus paddy in a district should be allowed to go out of it. In the same district, there are dry areas also. Let the Government procure the maximum in the fertile areas, store it up in the district itself so that it may act as a reserve. By this they can check any sudden increase in price level also by rushing forth supplies from their stores. Unless the Government do this, no useful purpose could be served by the proposed levy.

"When the people are not able to get the food they want at reasonable prices and when the prices are not checked from going on increasing, what is it that we find the Government saying? The Hon. Chief Minister comes and justifies the Government's stand on decontrol on an entirely different footing. All sorts of excuses are brought forth. But the same old cry is there of increasing production and giving the necessary incentive to the *producer* to increase production. The Hon. Chief Minister has been a bit careful in his definition of the term 'producer'. First he said 'producer' and then he changed the producer to a 'farmer'. What is the definition of the term 'producer'? According to the definition of the word 'producer' which the Government have put upon it, even Sri V. C. Palanisami Gounder is a producer though he is a big landlord. Well, that may be the Government's definition. But we believe that the man who actually cultivates is the producer."

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—"Not the man who borrows money for his manure, I suppose!"

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—"Certainly the man who borrows money for his cultivation is the man who cultivates and it is he who toils hard to till the soil. The man who is the tiller of the soil is the producer. That is how we base our definition of the term 'producer'. We do not recognize people like Sri V. C. Palaniswami Gounder as producers."

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—"Sri Palanisami Gounder, his tenants and farmers—all are producers."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—"The Hon. Chief Minister may put such an interpretation. He is at liberty to do so. But we on our part refuse to recognize such people as producers. We recognise the tillers of the soil as producers. The actual tiller of the soil—he is the man whom we have got to look to for our food. What incentive should he be given to produce more? That is the main question. What is the incentive that this Government has given to the small producer to increase production? Nothing tangible. The small producer is overburdened with debt. He is

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not in a position to buy manure to increase the fertility of the land. For each and everything he has got to approach the landlord and be at his mercy. The Government refuse to give him loans because he has no security and he may not able to pay interest. That is the position now. Unless radical agrarian reforms take place, production cannot be increased. Production has been going down ever since 1920. It had not gone down after the War (1939–1945). If we see the statistics of the Economic Adviser to the Government of Madras, we see that production has been continuously deteriorating from 1942. At any rate in 1942 we had no control. Then what is the reason for the decline in production? It is not from 1942 that production is declining. It has been declining from the twenties. Even the Congress at its Lucknow session during 1936 said that the decrease in production was due to the poverty of the masses. They attributed the decrease in production to agrarian tensions. They said that unless and until we introduce radical agrarian reforms, we cannot hope to increase our production. So, we see that agrarian reform had been the issue from the thirties. What have this Government done in the matter? What are the agrarian reforms they had introduced? What is the position of the cultivator now? How does he stand? Has he got enough money with him to buy manures for increasing the fertility of the land? No. He is not in a position to find the wherewithal to meet his agricultural needs. Unless his condition is improved all empty talk of increasing production will be of no avail. That is what history has taught us. Our Hon. Chief Minister may not like any talk about foreign countries. But at any rate let us take the case of our sister country, China.

3–20 p.m. "For the last hundreds of years that country had been importing foodgrains for its internal needs. This went on till the last agrarian movement set in. In that movement the ownership of land was changed. The tiller of the soil was made the owner of the soil. Then there was a great incentive for the tillers to produce more foodgrains. In one year with an improvement in the technique of cultivation that country was able to produce more than they required for their internal needs; they were also able to export rice to other countries. Now that is the position in China to-day. Now if the same thing is done in our country it will not take long for us to produce foodgrains for our requirements, and also enough to spare.

"Lastly, Sir, why is it, in spite of the fact that the Planning Commission Report, on which the Congress contested the last general elections, has stated in categorical terms that they are not for relaxing controls—I ask, why is it in this State this Government have adopted a decontrol policy? I say, there is a solid political motive behind that move. Has it not been now realized that decontrol has failed? Have we not seen that it is not to the interests of the people to have such a policy? Have we not seen from our six months' experience of decontrol that prices have not come down? Is it not a patent fact now that we have no stock on hand for the next year? Now, Sir, in spite of all this, how do

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Government justify their decontrol policy? The only reason is, as I said, that they have a solid political objective behind it. In this State the Congress did not win in the last elections. They thought that it was all due to the tremendous amount of corruption and bribery rampant in the Food Department and the harassment by the procurement officials of the poor peasants and agriculturists. We all know what a great uproar there was in the State and what amount of discontent there was among the people just before the elections. Sir, the Congress itself in 1946 complained of the vast extent of bribery and corruption in the Food Department in the days of British administration, and the Congress Government itself during its regime of five years has failed to rid the administration of bribery and corruption. Their regime is a confession of failure on their part to purge the bribery and corruption that was rampant in the Food Department. So the only way open for them was to put an end to the administration of control run by the officials and change the hearts of the people. So they abolished controls. But, I say, introduce a new system of controls in which the people will play their fullest part and not the officials. That sort of control will work well and successfully, and not a system of control in which the officials will look down on the people and have their own way. Instead of doing that this Government have decontrolled. In doing so they thought that the people will be freed from all the trouble they had undergone under control and so they would support this Government; and it is with this intention the Government have introduced decontrol in this State. I do not believe the Hon. Chief Minister, knowing him as I do, ever believed that by merely acting in accordance with the wish of the people, by respecting the sentiments of the landowners he could increase production in the country and bring down the price of foodgrains. I know the Hon. Chief Minister did not have faith in the landowners. He knew the landowners would misbehave; he knew they would store grains and sell them in blackmarket; because I have seen this statement made earlier when he was Governor-General. So under this context he knew that the landlords will hoard foodgrains and the merchants also will hoard foodgrains. And nothing has happened between 1948 and now to change the character of the landlords. But all the same why is it the Government have adopted a policy of decontrol? I say it is political objective. I say, give up all this decontrol. I say in all humility the interests of the people are involved in this question. Even to-day the interests of millions of our people are involved in this question. Government cannot solve this problem by their decontrol policy. Government cannot supply food to them by the policy they have adopted. Let them take a lesson from the experience of the last six months of decontrol. So even now let us examine the question afresh; let us sit together and let us fully consider the problem; let us discuss in all seriousness; let us not discuss by allowing only five minutes to each member."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The Leader of the Opposition has been given sufficient time, though the other Members have been given only five minutes each."

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THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" All the five minutes were stored to give the leader of the Opposition one hour and twenty minutes." (Laughter.)

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" Now let us seriously consider this problem ; as I said, let us sit together and discuss the matter."

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" In spite of all this, two blades will not grow where one blade grew." (Laughter.)

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" Government to-day are impervious to all arguments. If we sit together and discuss things on the basis of figures, if we discuss them dispassionately and not from the point of view of propaganda, Government will surely come to a different conclusion regarding decontrol. If the mind is impervious it will fail to come to a correct conclusion. If the mind is prejudiced or if it is predetermined on account of political factors, it will not change its opinion.

" Lastly, Sir, unless we are prepared to discuss and give a reorientation to our food policy posterity will judge Government otherwise; posterity will say that this Government allowed millions of our people to die, that this Government failed to discharge the elementary responsibility of a Government in giving food to the people, that they allowed the landowners to hoard foodgrains and left the people to the mercy of blackmarketers. So let us not be misjudged. So let us at least now change our policy and respond to the call of the people ; let us not be misled by the landowners who so to say, produce food for us; food, which is now in their grip merely because they have got monopoly over the land in this State. Therefore I say, let us discuss and give a reorientation to our food policy for the lasting benefit of thousands and millions of our starving people."

* THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have been closely following the debate for the last two days because the subject is important. Speeches were made under two broad categories, one category approving the general policy of the Government and at the same time, pointing out defects here and there, which have to be rectified; and a second category delivered by the Leader of the Opposition saying that we have taken a wrong policy, that we should go back upon that policy and reintroduce controls. These are the two main categories. If we analyse them and see who are the advocates of this second category, we find it is only the members of the Communist Party, who have taken up that attitude. Even the members who have been behind the Front called the United Democratic Front—the fast disintegrating United Democratic Front—have not spoken with one voice. No doubt the Communist Party members have spoken with one voice ; but the other members have in general approved the policy of decontrol. Of course they have pointed out certain defects in the administration and they want those things to be rectified. But, they are not for the reintroduction of controls.

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" Therefore, let me first meet the points made out by the hon. the Leader of the Opposition because he was the main spokesman for the reintroduction of controls. Sir, the first point he made out was that the Government have taken six months to initiate a debate on this food problem. At the outset, even when I initiated this debate, I said that this is a debate on food as such for the first time. If it was considered that our policy had to be discussed in this House, and food being an all important thing, it was not only the duty of the Government to initiate a debate but, if it was thought that we were evading any such debate on the floor of this House, it was the duty of the Opposition also to take every opportunity to bring it before this House and focus its attention on that aspect. After all, there was the general debate on the Budget and the Food Department also had a Demand to make and the Opposition could have focussed our attention particularly on this aspect during that debate. But they were not prepared for a debate at that time and therefore they did not try to have any debate in the House on this aspect. We formulated the policy of decontrol and we found that there was general agreement as far as this House was concerned, leave alone the people outside. As far as this House was concerned there was a majority of opinion on our side and we, therefore, thought that it was unnecessary to bring a specific resolution on this policy. If the Opposition thought that we were following a wrong track it was the duty of the Opposition to have brought in a motion at the proper time and if it had been so especially in respect of food which is an all important thing, it was their duty to bring in even a motion of censure and draw the attention of the House and also of the people outside to this aspect. They would not do it, Sir, but would charge the Government now that they did not give an opportunity for a discussion on this subject. After all, in this House, the Opposition members have also got the initiative with them. They could have done it if they had only wanted it. 3-30 p.m.

" The second charge that was made was that a resolution has been brought by the Government to discuss in general the food situation in the State and there was therefore no particular opportunity to discuss the food policy followed by the Government. Sir, I again state that we still hold that there is majority agreement as far as this food policy is concerned. If it was thought it was necessary to concentrate discussion on this policy aspect, it was open to the hon. the Leader of the Opposition to bring in an amendment saying that the Opposition disapprove the policy followed by the Government and certainly attention would have been focussed on it. But, he would not do any such thing. I mentioned to the hon. the Leader of the Opposition, even at the beginning of the debate that if we were to allow a debate on general lines, each hon. Member will be interested in his particular constituency and it would be better as far as possible if they could give some guidance to Government on general policy as well. He cannot deny it. He only said ' No, no. Leave it as it is. Each member is particularly interested in his constituency. Let them speak on their constituencies. As

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far as I am concerned, I will deal with the general policy.' This is the statement that he made and, even if he had made a wrong judgment at the time, during the debate he could have corrected them and asked the Members who took part in the debate to confine themselves to the general policy alone. After all, it was unnecessary for everybody to speak. From the Opposition side many names had been given to the Hon. the Speaker. They could have restricted the number and said ' Let us concentrate upon the food policy '. The hon. the Leader of the Opposition would do no such thing but would blame the Government for bringing a resolution in this general form. About 150 hon. Members had given their names and they have got to be satisfied. Necessarily the time had to be restricted but the hon. the Leader of the Opposition would make a general charge during his speech that sufficient time had not been given. He has taken more than an hour and twenty minutes and, if he is representing the view points of his party, I do not think that a speech from any other hon. Member is necessary from his party. Even in this respect, I am afraid, he was on wrong ground when he charged the Government that the proceedings in this House has become infructuous and therefore it has become a little unreal. I will now deal with the other points raised by the hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

" The first point that he wanted to make was that there has been a decrease in the production of foodgrains. Did I, Sir, conceal that fact? I was always prepared to give all the facts and figures but still he would speak—that is his tactics—as if we were trying to hide something and he was exposing it here. That is his policy which I want to bring to the notice of the hon. Members here. I gave all the facts and figures and showed, as a matter of fact, that there has been a decrease in production and with facts and figures explained how it has been going down step by step from 1942–43. But his speech looked as if he was making a new point out of it.

" The second point he wanted to make out was that the gap of the deficit has increased. I myself said, Sir, that the gap has increased due to the decrease in production and also due to the increase in population but the hon. the Leader of the Opposition would make it appear that I wanted to mask these figures to side-track this issue. As a matter of fact, I had put the facts straight to the House and put a straight question to the House ' These are the facts and what do you want the Government to do? '

" Another point that he made out was that prices have gone up. Yes, the prices have no doubt gone up and I gave to the House figures relating to the extent they have gone up in the various areas. We have also got to consider the question as to how prices do go up. In this connection he pointed out the promises made by the Hon. the Chief Minister and also by me in the broadcast speech and also on public platforms that prices would go down. Yes, I thought so at that time and to that extent my expectations have not been fulfilled. The prices have not gone down but I know they have gone

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up. Leaving aside the promises and other things made by us, we have to analyse and find out the causes which have brought about an increase in the price level instead of simply saying that decontrol has brought about this increase in prices. Supposing we had not reversed the policy of controls and had not announced this policy of decontrol, would there have been no scarcity? We could have gone on with the stocks in our hands and, in fact, we are continuing to supply through the fair price shops—only the name has been changed from ration shops—at the same rates and almost at the same prices. What else has been done during this period leaving alone the policy for the future to which I will come later? The policy announced by us has not made any change as far as the supply position is concerned. I think, if we go into the figures, it will be found that we have been supplying to the people greater quantity of foodgrains than during the corresponding periods of last year. In September 1951, which month is always the peak period, we have supplied only 71 thousand tons through the ration shops whereas this year for the same period we have supplied 91 thousand tons through the fair price shops. As far as supply through fair price shops is concerned we have not in any way diminished it. On the other hand we have been supplying a little more than what we have been supplying before in the previous years and we have now opened more fair price shops. Therefore, the supply through Governmental agency has not in any way been affected. Then, what is the change that has been made? Formerly, there were the restrictions on movement from place to place and even from house to house. Even within the same town persons taking a measure of rice used to be prosecuted. We said 'Leave alone whatever surplus is available with the people. Let them have free movement and a free market.' Formerly, when there was no such freedom the surplus that was available with the people was being sold in the black-market. Even the quantities that we used to procure are now with them and whatever surplus is available they can now sell in the free market. If I compare the blackmarket price with the free market price, I am quite justified in saying that the free market price has not reached the level of blackmarket prices. Under the same conditions of supply through Governmental agency and under the same conditions in which we procured seven lakh tons last year when there were restrictions and there was no freedom, the prices were at a very high level, but when we have given this freedom of movement within the zons, if, as a matter of fact, prices have not come down, we are asked 'Why did you say to the people that prices would go down?' I would request the hon. Members also to ponder upon it. The price level has got a psychological factor behind it. If we create a scare in any market that such and such goods are not going to be available hereafter, the prices go up. People create a scare and there is a rise in prices. That is the psychology behind it.

"As a matter of fact, we wanted to create a psychology wherein people will have confidence and it is such confidence that would 3–40 p.m.

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bring down prices. But, what were the hon. Leader of the Opposition and those belonging to his party doing? When we were trying to administer the psychology dose to people, they were saying from every platform 'No, no, prices are going up, prices are soaring high and therefore be careful.' Therefore, we were creating a psychological atmosphere in the country for the fall in prices. The Hon. Chief Minister said, the merchants and traders did not behave well. They also did not behave well and the members belonging to the Communist Party were also equally responsible, indirectly responsible, because they were all along saying that the prices were going to rise, prices were going to soar high and scarcity conditions were going to prevail. As the Hon. Chief Minister was telling, it is just like a doctor telling a patient 'Oh! you are all right, you are getting on all right, have confidence' and just then another man coming and saying 'Oh! you are becoming weak' and another person coming forward and saying 'Oh! your heart is collapsing.' What will be the condition of such a patient and who is the better doctor, you should be able to understand. If I have made promises and given assurances, on what basis did I make them? As I said, Sir, we wanted to create a psychological atmosphere and psychological confidence in the country and every attempt was made to create that atmosphere of confidence. Then, Sir, why did I make the statement that the prices would go down? I made the statement because of this. I hoped—and in that also I was disappointed—that we would have the normal south-west monsoon and north-east monsoon, that the period of drought would be over and that we would have a period of prosperity, especially in view of the affluent rains that we had in May last. That was what we thought. But, unfortunately, the south-west monsoon was a phenomenal failure and an unprecedented failure, as I have already pointed out. Therefore, there was no production—millet crop failed, kuruvai crop failed and every other crop failed—and when there was no production at all, prices went up. I expected the south-west monsoon and therefore there would be good production and when there was good production, paddy and other millets would be available in abundance and therefore prices were likely to go down. If I have been defeated by Nature—not by members of the Communist Party—if the Communist Party want to take credit that they are responsible for the failure of the south-west monsoon, let them take credit for that. But, Sir, that has been the main factor for the prices going up a little further. After all, we should understand, that as soon as the monsoon fails, a few persons who have got a little surplus, keep it for the future and do not release it and when the rain comes, even though they do not get foodgrains immediately and they have to wait for two or three months, it creates confidence in the people and so whatever surplus they have, they are prepared to sell it in the open market. So, automatically prices come down. That is the aspect of the question that should be borne in mind. This year, the north-east monsoon was late in arriving and that further accentuated scarcity conditions. So, Sir, taking all these things into consideration—failure of the south-west

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monsoon, and the late arrival of the north-east monsoon—even now I claim that the prices have fared fair. When I make such a claim, the Leader of the Opposition says, I do not have political honesty. But, admitting that I have made wrong promises, after all there is no question of making false promises—we expected certain things to happen and then gave out an estimate of the situation—if anything really had gone wrong, we have to analyse and see what is really the matter. May I respectfully submit that but for the unprecedented failure of both the monsoons, even now I am prepared to say that the prices would have gone down, because there would have been abundant production of foodstuffs, especially in view of decontrol of food?

"Then, Sir, I have pointed out from the figures for the years from 1942–43 to 1951–52 that 1944–45 was the peak period and that step by step production was going down. As I have already pointed out, one of the factors which contributed to this was the drought conditions. The second factor was, as pointed out by Mr. V. V. Ramaswami Nadar, people who were previously growing food crops have now taken to the growing of commercial crops, because they got more money from commercial crops and rather than produce food grains and undergo all the ordeal of procurement and the harassment of procurement officials, people who were growing foodgrains went over to commercial crops because they were more profitable and there was no harassment also. Therefore, that also contributed to scarcity conditions in food. Therefore, when we decontrolled, we thought that there would be normal monsoons, there would be increased production and therefore when there is increased production, automatically the law of supply and demand will operate and the prices would go down. That was the main factor which induced me to forecast a fall in prices. But, my friend opposite attributes it to political dishonesty. Sir, as I said, I have placed all the facts before the House and it is not as if I have said anything in secret that the prices would go down. In fact, I made a public statement and now publicly say that the prices have gone up and there is nothing wrong in admitting what has happened.

"Sir, another point that was made out was that famine conditions have come to prevail throughout the State. After all if famine conditions prevail, they do prevail and the Government themselves have realised that famine conditions prevail. Otherwise, where is the need for opening as many as 2,000 and odd gruel centres? We admit there are drought conditions; we admit that production has gone down. What is the remedy? There is no use writing in papers about starvation deaths and so on, and even though they are due to natural causes, my friends write letters that there have been starvation deaths. They would never admit that they have made wrong statements even though after enquiry we tell them that they were not deaths due to starvation. This propaganda of starvation deaths would naturally create further scare among the people and conditions will go on worsening and worsening.

"I submit, Sir, that in these difficult famine conditions, what is wanted most is to keep up the morale of the people. If the

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morale of the people goes down, they would not be able to tide over the difficult position. If my friends are really interested in the millions of people, they should really be interested in creating a certain amount of confidence in the people instead of trying to shatter the confidence of the people and every moment telling them ' here are starvation deaths, millions of people are going to die ', because if such a statement is made by the hon. Leader of the Opposition, it is not likely to create confidence in the people. In spite of such statements which the hon. Leader of the Opposition usually makes, namely ' millions of people are going to die ', I say, it is not going to happen and it shall not happen.

" Then, Sir, Mr. Jeevanandam was referring to the beggar problem in the State. He said that everywhere there were more beggars under Rajaji Raj. Sir, I know there are more beggars and it is because of the fact that the monsoons have failed and we are a poverty-stricken State and the reserve power of the people is gone, many people are forced to take to begging. Unfortunately, we do not have slave camps as in Siberia where we can segregate all the beggars, so that they may be kept away from us. If we have slave camps as in Siberia, we would take away all the beggars and segregate them there and say ' we have no beggars here '. Unfortunately or shall I say fortunately we cannot resort to that practice and that is why we have to face the problem. As the Hon. Chief Minister has pointed out, it is not a nuisance ; it is a problem which has got to be faced by the State Government and we shall try to face it and solve it as far as possible with the co-operation of this House. Sir, these are the facts as far as the past is concerned.

3-50 p.m. " Sir, while I initiated the debate, I thought I should give only a factual picture so that this House may approach the problem without any inhibitions and without any sort of suggestions from us. Under the present circumstances, what are we to do? The remedy suggested by Mr. Ramamurthi is to bring back control. If this House gives the verdict that control should be reintroduced, I am prepared to stand by it as far as I am personally concerned. I would request Mr. Ramamurthi to stand by the verdict of the people's representatives."

Sri P. Ramamurthi :—" Not the old control."

* The Hon. Sri C. Subramaniam :—" I know he will camouflage by saying that he does not want the old control but that he wants some new control. We have got to work with the human material which is available to us.

" If he is not satisfied with the verdict of this House and if he so desires, I am prepared to take the verdict of the people on the issue of control *versus* decontrol. I am sure about what the verdict of the people will be. Decontrol has been received warmly in every nook and corner of the State."

Sri P. Ramamurthi :—" I accept that challenge."

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* THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I know he does not lose anything by accepting that challenge."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" Let the Hon. Food Minister resign, I will also resign and let us see."

* THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" To-day I will offer my resignation . . ."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I cannot allow this kind of interruption."

(Sri P. Ramamurthi rose to speak.)

MR. SPEAKER :—" If the hon. Member wants to speak, I will permit him afterwards."

* THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I am sorry I cannot speak in the Communist language, in which ' people ' means only Mr. Ramamurthi and his followers and nobody else."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" People means Kunniyur Sambasiva Iyers ! "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" All the difference between an old man like me and my young Colleague ! " (Laughter.)

* THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" If the hon. Leader of the Opposition thinks that we are following a wrong policy and if he is not prepared to take the verdict of this House, let him bring forward at the next sitting a resolution recommending the reversal of that policy. I, as the Leader of the House, promise that I shall give top priority to it and allow as many days for its discussion as it is necessary."

(Interruption by the Hon. Sri C. Rajagopalachari.)

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" The offer has been overruled by the Hon. Chief Minister."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" It is not overruled by him. My offer still stands.

" I am glad that the Hon. Leader of the Opposition says that he wants the re-introduction of controls. I wish he has the courage of conviction and the honesty to proclaim it to the people everywhere without masking it in any way by using words like ' old control ' and ' new control '. If he does this, he knows what sort of reception he will be getting from the people. He tried to make political propaganda by saying that our decontrol policy had failed. It is for the House to judge whether the policy has failed. I leave it at that.

" The question was asked as to how we would feed the people when there was so much deficit. Especially Mr. Jeevanandam asked it. Mr. Ramamurthi, his leader, repeated it and added that I should be placed in the museum along with Adam Smith and some other economists. I think that was the insinuation. Anyway, my

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note of optimism is based on certain facts. I am optimistic because I have faith in the people that they will produce more, making use of every ounce of water now available in the tanks. It is long since the districts of North Arcot, South Arcot and Chingleput have had a good shower and had their tanks full. Fortunately, at present most of the tanks are full or nearly full. There is enough water for at least one crop. When the tanks are full, the wells nearby also have adequate water. Let me give figures about the acreage under tank irrigation in these three districts.

District.	Extent. ACRES.
North Arcot	1,14,584
South Arcot	1,49,000
Chingleput	3,13,186
	5,76,770

I am sure that at least one crop can be raised on these 575,000 acres, even if there is no further rain."

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" What about the loss that the agriculturists have already incurred? "

* THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Nobody is going to compensate them for the loss. If the Hon. Leader of the Opposition is prepared to make up the loss, I have no objection. If he suggests ways and means, I am prepared to consider them.

" I expect that all these 575,000 acres will go into production. We are making arrangements through the Agricultural Department for the supply of seeds. The extent under well irrigation in these three districts is 410,000 acres and I expect they also will go into production. If these one million acres produce one short-term paddy crop and one millet crop, we will have an additional four lakh tons of foodgrains even at the most conservative estimate.

" I want to bring one other factor to the notice of the hon. Members. Two important irrigation projects which we are executing are nearing completion. The Lower Bhavani Project will bring two lakh acres under irrigation. Our Engineers have promised that water could be let out from the Tungabhadra Project by June, and that will bring another three lakh acres under irrigation. Thus the two projects bring another five lakh acres under irrigation.

" With these 15 lakh acres going into production with adequate water available, I feel that we will be able to tide over the crisis. That is why I am optimistic. Some people do not like our saying that we will be able to tide over the crisis. Their wish is that the crisis should not be tided over and that there should be perpetual difficulty so that they can make use of it for political purposes.

" In my opening speech, I gave figures about the quantity that we proposed to import. We will get 2 lakh tons of rice at a fairly cheap price, another 50,000 tons if we are prepared to pay a little

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higher price, five lakh tons of millet and two lakh tons of wheat. We are making arrangements for the supply of broken wheat to the people. A Daily of Madras has commented that the people will be inclined to take broken wheat if supplied. From imports alone, we will have nine lakh tons of foodgrains and we are going to procure two lakh tons of rice from the surplus districts of the State. Thus we will have 11 lakh tons of foodgrains in all. We have been distributing through fair price shops and ration shops all these years only 9½ lakh tons. As against that, we will have 11 lakh tons and we will be able to distribute them to all people on the same scale as before through fair price shops. But I have to make it clear that the entire quota of supply will not be in the form of rice; some portion of it will have to be in the form of millets and wheat. 4 p.m. That is why I laid some emphasis on the change of our food habits. In this connexion I want to say that Dr. K. B. Menon made a very valuable contribution to this debate—leaving aside all the irrelevancies. (Interruption.) I say he left the irrelevancies to other hon. Members. (Laughter.) He confined himself only to food and nothing but food. I have made a note of this. He made the important contribution to the debate by saying that our food habits were not born with us but were created also. He said that grains alone should not be our food, and that subsidiary foods like fish should be produced more and more. He was saying that in Malabar there were plenty of tanks and each home had a tank where fish could be reared. Therefore, we have to concentrate not only on grains but also on raising other subsidiary foods. Taking all these into consideration, as far as next year is concerned, even though it is going to be a difficult period, I am sure, we will be able to tide over the crisis. All these factors are the basis for my optimism, and not anything else. (Interruption.) Imports from other places will come. That will be the responsibility of the Central Government. We have got to see that conditions are created so that more and more production not only in grains but in subsidiary foods also is made possible. The problem facing us now is how we are going to produce more food. If, as a matter of fact, it will be possible to produce more by the re-imposition of controls, certainly I will be the first to re-introduce controls. I am sure controls will not yield two blades of grass where one previously grew. On the other hand, they will retard the production of food. This is the verdict of the people also. Very many hon. Members of this House also had said so. That being so, I do not think that the solution of the problem lies in re-introducing controls. (Interruption.) I can understand the attitude of the Leader of the Opposition. His philosophy of life leads not only to control of food but it leads to the control of every human activity, culture, etc. (Interruption.) Pandit Nehru talks about control of food, but the Leader of the Opposition and the party to which he belongs are wedded to control not only of food articles but control of every production, every human activity, every human thought, every culture, etc. That being so, I am not surprised . . . (Interruption by the hon. Member Sri Ramamurthi) if he wants at least these controls if not the other controls. It is his faith and it is quite understandable.

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But the question is whether the House will accept his advice for more effective and stringent control. More stringent control will only retard production. That is my honest opinion. If the House thinks otherwise, I am prepared to take its verdict.

" Regarding certain areas in the various constituencies, pointed attention was drawn to pockets of scarcity areas, and the prevailing distress among the people. I do agree that there has been a certain amount of difficulty. The main difficulty is our deficit. It is just like our trying to cover our body with a cloth which is not quite sufficient. When we try to cover our head, our feet are exposed, and when we try to cover our feet, our head is exposed. But we are trying to do the best of a bad job. After all, facts speak with greater emphasis than mere arguments. We have been passing through a very difficult period. Famine has been raging in the country. In spite of the allegations of starvation deaths—even taking that there had been starvation deaths, the number of deaths did not exceed 100—we have been able to tide over the crisis to a certain extent. There had been no starvation deaths on any large scale. On investigation we found out that allegations of starvation deaths were all false. Even taking these starvation deaths to be true, for argument's sake, their number is not more than 100 and considering the size of the country, the poverty and the deficit in foodgrains in the State, this number is nothing. In these drought conditions even if one soul dies, it would be bad enough. But we cannot help it. Because of these difficulties, people have been put to great strain. Foodgrains were not available to them in sufficient quantities. As I already told the House we try to improve the position so that food may be available to our people in sufficient quantities. Our attempt should be on the production side. In that behalf the hon. Member Mr. Viswanatham has made certain suggestions that we have not paid sufficient attention to projects like Krishna, Godavari, etc. I know they deserve attention so that at least after five years the benefit of those schemes will be available to our people. But people cannot wait for five years to satisfy their hunger. They cannot live with their stomachs empty in the hope of getting benefit after five years. We have got to see that sufficient food is available to them now to carry on. I do not know when we will have conditions wherein we will have plenty. I will be quite satisfied if the target figure of 1945–46 and 1946–47, namely, 5 million tons of paddy and 3½ million tons of millets is reached. We will be more than satisfied with this amount of foodgrains because we have been getting on fairly well with much less. We should see how we can get these quantities. After all the economic set up in 1945–46 has not changed now. It was not under a different economic set up from now that a higher rate of production was obtained in 1945–46. The present landholders were existing even then. The hon. Member Mr. Viswanatham wants that we should reach the target of 10 million tons. But I would be satisfied with 8½ million tons. In the present economic set up and under the existing conditions, our main difficulty is want of rain. Let us all

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hope that hereafter we will have rain year after year, and that every year will be a normal year. It would then be possible to reach this target easily. For that purpose, we should see that our farmers, whose reserve power has been shaken to a great extent because of the drought conditions for the last five years, are helped. They need our help. I am sure the department will go to their help in respect of their seed and manure requirements. I am sure with this help we will be able to increase our production. It will not be possible for me to take each district separately and deal with the conditions existing therein. Ramanathapuram district was brought out prominently by some hon. Members. They say that it is not only the Rayalaseema districts that are suffering but Ramanathapuram district also is suffering equally, if not more. They wanted at once relief measures to be taken in Ramanathapuram. No doubt, famine conditions are also connected with the food problem. But they are a little bit different. It is no use mixing up the two in this debate.

" We have taken note of the requests and representations made with reference to various districts and, wherever possible, we will try to help the people. We have already started relief works. As Finance Minister, I have to bring to the notice of this House that, even with the existing famine relief measures, the deficit will go up to Rs. 10 crores. Therefore, if these relief measures are to be extended to other areas also, that means more money and this House should be prepared to vote it, if it becomes necessary. 4-10 p.m.

" One word about the levy system to which the hon. the Leader of the Opposition referred. He said, ' Let us take away the entire surplus, beyond a certain level.' But, Sir, representations were made to us that the big landlords had leased out their lands, they would be getting only a share of the produce by way of rent and this levy would absorb almost the entire surplus, and they have got their own commitments. But I am prepared to say that, if it is possible to get more from the big landlords, certainly I would not hesitate to do it, if it becomes necessary. But representations have been made even from the other side of the House that the target already fixed is fairly high and that it is likely to create some difficulty even for the big landlords. From that aspect, we have got to see whether it will be possible to take anything more from these big landlords. There is no use simply saying that we are at the mercy of big landlords. It is not so. As far as the delta areas are concerned, we are absorbing almost the entire surplus, by this levy system. Still, my own view is that a little more may be left with them. As far as small peasants are concerned, after all, they form the majority and they are not touched. As I have already pointed out in my speech on the Land Revenue (Surcharge) Bill, in Tanjore district we should be able to procure as much as possible from landlords paying an assessment of over Rs. 100. Let us leave alone those who pay above Rs. 20 and below Rs. 100. Even then, there are only ·86 per cent of the pattadars who pay an assessment over Rs. 100. Therefore, there is no use

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saying that we are in the grip of big landlords. Of course, for political purposes anything may be said. But the majority of landholders are small landowners. No doubt, there are people who own greater extents of land. But that is a different problem. We will tackle it by and by. As far as small peasants are concerned, under the existing conditions it will be possible and it should be possible for them to grow more, because ours is a State of small landowners. Under these circumstances, I am sure that the conditions, which the hon. the Leader of the Opposition said were required for growing more food, are already existing in the agricultural sector. My submission to the hon. Members who have moved amendments is that we shall try to remove the difficulties pointed out by them with reference to particular areas, and I request them to withdraw their amendments.

" Before I conclude, I have to answer one point with regard to Malabar. It was reported in the editorial of *The Mail* that one hon. Member Sri Nambiyar, when he spoke, said that rice was selling at Rs. 5 per measure in Malabar. I do not know whether his speech has been rightly reported or wrongly reported."

SRI T. C. NARAYANA NAMBIAR :—" I said that rice was selling at Rs. 5 per para (not per measure) in Malabar."

* THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I do not know what is a para. Whatever it may be, the entire editorial was written on the basis that rice was selling at Rs. 5 per measure in Malabar, and we have been sacked and condemned on that ground. I wish they take a little more care before writing the editorial.

" Sir, this allegation was made in the editorial of an important daily. So, I tried to get certain figures with regard to Malabar. After all, the situation is not so alarming as it was described to be even by the hon. Member here. I have here extracts taken from the *Mathrubhumi*. At Kozhikode, on 19th November 1952, a bag of ordinary sort of rice containing 162 lb. (that is, about 48 Madras measures) was selling at Rs. 52 and a bag of polished (first-class) rice was selling at Rs. 58. On 26th November 1952, the prices came down to Rs. 49 and Rs. 56, respectively. On 1st December 1952, they further came down to Rs. 48 and Rs. 50, respectively. On 5th December 1952, they went up a little to Rs. 50 and Rs. 52, respectively. This is the report of the *Mathrubhumi* about prices at Kozhikode. In regard to prices in other places, I have tried to get some figures. At Parali, the price of paddy per 70 paras (a cart-load), which was Rs. 225 went up to Rs. 240 on 5th December 1952. This is certainly not a rise of Rs. 5 per para. At Ottapalam, the price went up on 5th December 1952 from Rs. 210 to Rs. 250. At Balusseri (a suburb of Kozhikode) the price at the fair price depot was As. 5-1 whereas the price in the open market was As. 5-9. In view of this, there is no use getting alarmed about these things. As far as Malabar is concerned, we have taken special precautions and we are giving special treatment to Malabar and the Nilgiris. Whatever is wanted by the hon. the Leader of the Opposition to be done is being done there. Rationing and

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ration shops are continued there. Therefore, there is no use trying to say that even in Malabar, prices have gone up. On the whole, I am prepared to say decontrol has worked fairly well, though not to the extent I expected, which was because of the failure of the monsoon and not because of any other thing. I am sure there is absolutely no case for the reversal of our policy. That is my claim. Thank you, Sir."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" On a point of personal explanation, Sir. The Hon. the Food Minister stated that I was trying to palm off the statistics he had given as my own and trying to mislead the people. I submit that a perusal of the transcript of my speech will not bear him out. On the other hand, I have specifically stated, on the basis of the facts supplied by the Hon. the Food Minister himself, that his policy stands condemned. There was no intention on my part to palm off his statistics as my own. I relied upon the statistics given by the Government."

SRI T. C. NARAYANA NAMBIAR :—" Sir, in my speech yesterday I made it clear that the price had increased five times in some areas and ten times in some other areas. I stick to my statement that the price of paddy per para is Rs. 5 in Malabar."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I shall put the amendments to the vote of the House. The hon. Member Sri P. Venkatasiviah is not in his place. If an hon. Member is not in his place, his amendment is deemed to be withdrawn. So, the amendment of Sri Venkatasiviah is deemed to be withdrawn."

SRI S. VEMIAH :—" In view of the assurances given by the Hon. the Food Minister, I beg leave to withdraw my amendment."

The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn.

SRI T. LAKSHMINARAYANA REDDI :—" I press my amendment, Sir."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The question is—

' *Add* the following at the end :—

" with special reference to the failure of the Government to meet the food situation in Penukonda and Kadiri taluks, Anantapur district." ' "

The amendment was lost.

SRI K. RAJAGOPALA RAO :—" నేను పెట్టినటువంటి ప్రతిపాదనలను మంత్రిగారు శ్రద్ధతీసుకొని తగువైన చర్య తీసుకొంటారనే ఉద్దేశ్యముతో నేను నా సవరణను ఉపసంహరించుకొంటున్నాను. "

The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn.

SRI D. SEETHARAMIAH :—" I press my amendment, Sir."

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MR. SPEAKER :—" The question is—

'*Add* the following at the end :—

" with special reference to the famine conditions in Rayalaseema." ' "

The amendment was lost.

SRI A. GOVINDASWAMI NAYAGAR :—" உணவு மந்திரி அவர்கள் எங்கள ஜில்லாவிற்குப் போதுமான நிவாரணக் கடைகள் திறப்பதாகவும், போதுமான உணவு அளிப்பதாகவும் வாக்குறுதி அளித்தால் நான் என்னுடைய திருத்தத்தை வாபஸ் பெறத் தயாராக இருக்கிறேன். இல்லாத பட்சத்தில் வாபஸ் வாங்கமாட்டேன்."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The question is—

'*Add* the following at the end :—

" with reference to the failure of Government to open sufficient number of fair price shops and supply adequate food-grains in South Arcot district." ' "

The amendment was lost.

4–20 p.m. MR. SPEAKER :—" Hon. Members Sri V. Sri Krishna, Sri V. Chidanandam, Sri G. Rama Rao, Sri Alluri Venkatarama Raju, Sri P. K. Gopalakrishnan, Sri G. Satyanarayana, Sri M. Kune Rao and Sri N. Sivarami Reddi are not in their places and the amendments moved by them are deemed to have been withdrawn."

The amendment of Janab K. Uppi was, by leave, withdrawn.

SRI M. LAKSHMANASWAMY :—" Withdraw చేసుకోవటం లేదండి."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Then I will put his amendment to the vote of the House. The question is—

'*Add* the following at the end :—

" after decontrol and the negligence of the Government in opening fair price shops forthwith and in not getting the price of paddy and rice to the level of the controlled prices and in view of the unsatisfactory levy procurement order of the Government, dated 19th November 1952." ' "

The amendment was lost.

SRI C. PULLA REDDI :—" Withdraw చేయడం లేదండి."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The question is—

'*Add* the following at the end :—

" in general with special reference to famine conditions in Kurnool district." ' "

The amendment was lost.

SRI P. NARASIMHA REDDI :—" Withdraw చేసుకోవటం లేదండి.

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MR. SPEAKER :—" I shall now put the amendment of hon. Member Sri Narasimha Reddi to the vote of the House. The question is—

' *Add* the following at the end :—

" with special reference to famine conditions and hunger deaths in Cuddapah and Chittoor districts." ' "

The amendment was lost.

SRI G. C. KONDAYYA :—" Sir, I am withdrawing my amendment in the hope that the Government will do something to the people who are suffering in the famine-stricken areas."

The amendment of hon. Member Sri G. C. Kondayya was, by leave, withdrawn.

SRI K. RAMIAH CHOWDARY :—" మంత్రిగారు నేను పెట్టిన సవరణల నుద్దేశించి శ్రద్ధ తీసుకొని తగుచర్య తీసుకుంటారని ఆశిస్తూ, నాసవరణను ఉపసంహరించుకొంటున్నాను."

The amendment of hon. Member Sri K. Ramiah Chowdary was, by leave, withdrawn.

SRI K. KRISHNA RAO :—" Sir, I am not withdrawing my amendment."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Then, the question is—

' *Add* the following at the end :—

" and particularly about the closure of fair price shops in Nellore taluk and the supply of boiled rice to Nellore Town fair price shops at abnormally high rates." ' "

The amendment was lost.

SRI T. C. NARAYANA NAMBIAR :—" I am not withdrawing my amendment."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The question is—

' *Add* the following at the end :—

" with special reference to the failure on the part of the Government to open gruel centres and to apply Famine Code in Malabar since the food situation is serious and famine is spreading and even starvation deaths are taking place." ' "

The amendment was lost.

SRI K. GOVINDA RAO :—" విశాఖపట్టణం, శ్రీకాకుళం జిల్లాలు కరువు ప్రాంతాలుగా ప్రకటించుతానని మంత్రిగారు హామీయిస్తే, నేను నా సవరణను withdraw చేసుకుంటాను లేకపోతే, నేను withdraw చేసుకోను."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The question is—

' *Add* the following at the end :—

" with special reference to the distress prevailing in Visakhapatnam and Srikakulam districts." ' "

The amendment was lost.

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Mr. SPEAKER:—"I am now going to put the original motion to the vote of the House."

Sri P. RAMAMURTHI:—"Sir, I would like to have clarification on this point. The resolution before the House is, 'That the food situation in the State be taken into consideration'. That being the case, I don't think any vote is necessary on the resolution, as it stands in the present form."

Mr. SPEAKER:—"All motions must be put to the vote of the House. That is the procedure to be followed. The question is—

'That the food situation in the State be taken into consideration.'"

The motion was carried.

IV.—MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL.

Mr. SPEAKER:—"I have to announce to the House that I have received the following message, dated the 11th December 1952, from the Hon. the Chairman, Madras Legislative Council:—

'I transmit a copy of the Madras Motor Vehicles (Taxation of Passengers and Goods) Bill, 1952 (L.A. Bill No. 21 of 1952), as agreed to by the Council without any recommendation and signed by me.'"

V.—STATEMENT *RE* THE KRISHNA ANICUT ENQUIRY COMMITTEE REPORT.

Mr. SPEAKER:—"Regarding the Krishna Anicut Enquiry Committee's report, the Hon. Minister for Public Works will make a statement and the debate on the same will be held in the next sitting."

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—"Sir, I think the idea is that the motion on the situation created by the cyclone is to be taken up first."

Mr. SPEAKER:—"The Hon. Minister for Public Works will now make a statement on the Krishna Anicut Enquiry Committee Report and it will be discussed in the next sitting of the House."

Sri T. VISWANATHAM:—"Sir, we are very anxious that the matter should be gone into even now. That is what we feel after reading the report and also the appendices, which I have had the advantage of looking into yesterday and to-day. I would rather like that the debate should go on to-day unless everybody agrees that it should be postponed."

Mr. SPEAKER:—"Yes, that is the agreement."

Sri T. VISWANATHAM:—"Then in that case it seems that unfortunately I am the only man to disagree on this point."

నది ఏమిటంటే, అసలు యిప్పుడు యీ రిపోర్టు వచ్చిన తర్వాత ప్రభుత్వం ఏమి చర్యలు తీసుకొంటున్నారో చెప్పితే చాలును. దానిమీద debate లో discuss చేస్తాము.''

4-50 p.m. * THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Sir, all the immediate requirements are being attended to as the river is in floods now. Further damage has been stopped and damage to crops has been prevented. Therefore we are in a safe position. As soon as possible the repairs would be undertaken. Neither the estimates nor the details of the actual repair are now ready. Probably we may have something to say when we next meet."

III.—GOVERNMENT MOTIONS—*cont.*

(2) SITUATION CREATED BY THE CYCLONE IN TANJORE AND TIRUCHIRAPPALLI DISTRICTS.

* THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move—

> ' *That the situation created in the Tanjore and Tiruchirappalli districts by the recent cyclone on the* 30*th November* 1952, *be taken into consideration.*'

Sir, soon after the debate on the food situation in the State, it is distressing to bring to the notice of this House the situation created in the districts of Tanjore and Tiruchirappalli by an act of God, the recent cyclone. The other day the Hon. Chief Minister made a detailed statement about the damage done to these two districts and I need not repeat them now. I would only supplement what information we received subsequent to that statement.

" In the Tiruchirappalli district, apart from the loss of human lives, loss of cattle and loss to paddy crops and garden produce the details of which have already been given, we further received information that about 75 minor irrigation tanks in Alangudi taluk, 5 irrigation tanks in Tiruchirappalli taluk and the Peruvalai channel in Lalgudi taluk have breached and that they have been closed. There has been partial damage to the Taluk offices at Lalgudi and Kollathur and the office of the District Welfare Officer in Tiruchirappalli besides a number of *chavadis* in Pudukkottai division. About 15,000 private buildings were damaged. The Collector has been touring the district and arranging for immediate relief wherever necessary. I may tell the House, Sir, that the Revenue Officers both in Tanjore and Tiruchirappalli are doing their best to alleviate the distress caused by the cyclone.

" Sir, a State Cyclone Relief Committee has been constituted and the Governor has appealed for public contributions. Contributions both in kind and in cash are being received from the generous public. The President of the Republic of India, the Prime Minister and our Governor have contributed handsome donations to the State Relief Fund. The Corporation of Madras has also contributed a large amount. Private merchants and others also

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have contributed their mite and I need not mention their names and the amounts they have contributed. The B. & C. Mills have given quite a large number of blankets and other clothing and they have been despatched to Tanjore and Tiruchirappalli. The Indian Women's Association have given dry milk powder and we have despatched it to Tanjore and Tiruchirappalli districts in the ratio of 2 : 1. The Cyclone Relief Committee has been constituted with some Members of this House representing Tiruchirappalli and Tanjore districts, with power to co-opt other members. Sir, this is a great test. I have heard in our *Puranas* that in olden days a severe test was prescribed and it was called *Tapasya*. Similarly God is testing us now through this cyclone. After we attained Independence, we were faced with one trouble or other whether it was Kashmir, the West Bengal refugee problem, famine or cyclone. It redounds to our credit and to the vitality and greatness of this Nation that we have been passing through these tests bravely. An individual or nation is tested only in times of great adversity and if all of us put in our best efforts, we will be able to get over this difficult situation. There is a feeling in me that our troubles are coming to an end and that this period of five years of trouble is only a sort of probation and I think we will be coming out of this probation successfully if we get over this last test. Therefore, Sir, I request the hon. Members and others to put forth their best efforts to tide over this difficult situation. Already some public-spirited men are touring the districts in order to bring cheer and encouragement to the suffering people and they are contributing money and materials for building houses. Our officers also are doing their best and I am also going tonight to some of the cyclone-affected areas. My hon. Friend Sri P. B. K. Raja Chidambaram has promised to co-operate with me and do his best both as the President of the Tiruchirappalli District Board and as a Member representing Lalgudi constituency in this House. Therefore, Sir, let us all do our best forgetting our political affinities and classifications."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Motion moved—

' That the situation created in the Tanjore and Tiruchirappalli districts by the recent cyclone on the 30th November 1952, be taken into consideration.' "

SRI N. SIVARAJ :—" Sir, I beg to move the following amendment :—

' Add *the following at the end* :—

" *with special reference to the relief measures to be given to the affected.*" ' "

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" Sir, I second the amendment."

SRI R. KRISHNAN :—" Sir, I beg to move the following amendment :—

' Add *the following at the end* :—

" *to take up immediate relief work.*" ' "

The amendment was duly seconded.

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Sri K. P. GOPALAN :—" Sir, I beg to move the following amendment :—

' Add *the following at the end* :—

" *with special reference to the opening of gruel centres and formation of people's relief committees and granting of necessary compensation to those families who have lost their earning members in Tanjore and Tiruchirappalli districts on account of cyclone.*" ' "

Sri T. C. NARAYANA NAMBIAR :—" Sir, I second the amendment."

Sri G. C. KONDAYYA :—" Sir, I beg to move the following amendment :—

' Add *the following at the end* :—

" *after the word ' districts '* add ' *also Nellore district where bridges collapsed causing damage to the crops and traffic.*" ' "

The amendment was duly seconded.

Sri D. SEETHARAMIAH :—" Sir, I beg to move the following amendment :—

' Add *the following at the end* :—

" *with a view to take immediate relief measures.*" ' "

The amendment was duly seconded.

Mr. SPEAKER :—" Now the motion as well as the amendments are before the House for discussion. As many as eighteen members want to take part in the debate. So, I fix five minutes for each Member."

Sri M. PALANIYANDI :—" கனம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, தஞ்சை புயலில் சிக்கி மிகவும் அவதிப்பட்ட நான் சென்னைக்கு வந்தவுடன் ஒரு நாளைக்கு ஒத்திவைப்புத் தீர்மானம் கொண்டுவந்தேன். முதன் மந்திரி அவர்கள் அதைப்பற்றி சர்க்கார் தக்க நடவடிக்கை எடுப்பதாக அறிவித்ததின் காரணமாகத்தான் சபை அதை நிராகரித்துவிட்டது. மேலும் தஞ்சை, திருச்சி, சேலம் இந்த மூன்று ஜில்லாக்களில் மாத்திரம் புயலினால் சிக்கி இறந்தவர்கள் 300 பேருக்கு மேல் என்று கணக்கு கொடுக்கப்பட்டது. மேலும் விவசாயிகளின் செல்வமான மாடுகள் ஆடுகள் போன்ற கால்நடைச் செல்வங்கள் எராளமாக நாசமாகியிருக்கின்றன. வாழைத் தோட்டங்கள் பல அழிந்து போயிருக்கின்றன. கரூர், லால்குடி, முசிரி போன்ற இடங்களில் மாத்திரம் வாழைத்தோட்டங்களுக்கு ஏற்பட்டிருக்கும் நஷ்டம் சொல்லமுடியாது. நேரிடையாகப் பார்த்து வந்த எனக்கு அவர்சள் படும் கஷ்டத்தை எடுத்துச் சொல்ல முடியவில்லை. ஆகையால் உடனடியாக அவர்களுக்கெல்லாம் நிவாரணம் அளித்தாகவேண்டும்.

" முதலில் வீடுகள் இழந்த ஏழை மக்களுக்கு அந்தப் பக்கத்திலுள்ள சத்திரம், சாவடிகள் போன்றவற்றில் தங்குவதற்கு உடனடியாக ஒழித்து விட ஏற்பாடு செய்யவேண்டும். தனிப்பட்டோர் சத்திரங்கள் இருந்தாலும் அப்படியே ஒழித்துவிடச் செய்யவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

5 p.m. " உடனடியாக அங்கே வேலை செய்ய வழியின்றித் தவித்துக் கொண்டிருக்கும் விவசாயிகளுக்கு கஞ்சித்தொட்டிகள் ஏற்படுத்தவேண்டும். வேலை செய்யமுடியாதவர்களுக்கு எல்லாம் உடனடியாக அதன்மூலம் நிவாரணம் கொடுக்கவேண்டும்.

"மேலும் விவசாயிகள் விஷயத்தை எடுத்துக்கொண்டால் பெரும்பாலான வாழைத்தோட்டங்கள் எல்லாம் பாழாய்விட்டன. குத்தகைக்கு வாழைத்தோட்டங்களை எடுத்தவர்கள் எல்லாம் நிலக்காரருக்கு எப்படிப் பணம் கொடுப்பது என்று தெரியாமல் திண்டாடிக் கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். ஆகையினால் கட்டாயப்படுத்தி கசக்கி நிலச்சுவான்கள் விவசாயிகளிடமிருந்து குத்தகையை வசூலிக்காமலிருக்க சர்க்கார் உடனடியாக ஒரு அவசரச் சட்டத்தையாவது கொண்டுவரவேண்டும். மேலும் விவசாயிகள் விவசாய இலாகா, கூட்டுறவு பாங்கு போன்றவைகளில் கடன் வாங்கியிருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்கள் எல்லாம் இந்த வருஷம் தவணை கொடுக்கமுடியாதிருப்பதால் இன்னும் இரண்டு மூன்று வருஷங்களுக்கு அவர்களிடம் பணம் வசூல் செய்யாமலிருக்கும்படியாக சட்டம் செய்யவேண்டும். மேலும் அவர்களுக்குப் பண உதவி செய்யவும் வசதி செய்யவேண்டும்.

"மேலும் தெருக்களில் விழுந்த மரங்களையெல்லாம் சர்க்கார் தமுக்கு அடித்து ஏலம் போட்டு பின்னர்தான் வெட்டிக்கொண்டுபோக அனுமதிப்பதென்றால் நாளாகிறது. போகும் பாதைகள் எல்லாம் தடங்கலாக இருக்கிறது. ஆகையினால் அந்தப் பக்கங்களிலுள்ள மக்களையே வெட்டிக் கொண்டுபோக அனுமதித்துவிட்டால் ஒரே நாளில் ரோடுகள் எல்லாம் செப்பனிடப்பட்டுவிடும். அம்மாதிரியாகச் செய்யவேண்டுமென்று நான் சர்க்காரை மன்றாடிக் கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

"மேலும் சாதாரண நடுத்தர குடும்பத்தார்களுக்கு வீடுகளைச் செப்பனிட்டுக்கொள்ள பண வசதி அளிக்கவேண்டுமென்று நான் கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

"அதுவும் குடிசை வீடுகளிலுள்ளவர்களுக்கு உடனடியாக பத்துப் பதினைந்து ரூபாய்கள் கொடுத்தால் அவர்கள் மறுபடியும் தங்கள் குடிசையைப் போட்டுக் கொள்வார்கள். அதற்குத் தக்க வசதியையும் செய்யவேண்டும். ஜில்லாபோர்டு, முனிசிபாலிடிகளின் பள்ளிக்கூடங்கள் இருந்திருந்தால் அவைகளையும் இந்த நிவாரண வேலையிலேயே சேர்த்து அதை உடனடியாகச் செப்பனிடவேண்டும். அன்று கனம் ராஜாஜி அவர்கள் தங்கள் இஷ்டப்படி பணத்தைச் செலவழிக்கலாமென்று கலெக்டர்களுக்கு உத்திரவிட்டிருப்பதாக அறிவித்தார். ஆனால் அங்கிருந்து திரும்பி வந்திருக்கிற ஸ்ரீ சுவயம்பிரகாசம் அவர்கள் அம்மாதிரியான உத்திரவு இன்னும் கலெக்டர் கைகளுக்கு வந்து சேரவில்லையென்பதாகச் சொன்னார்கள். அது உடனடியாக அவர்களுக்குக் கிடைக்கும்படியாகச் செய்யவேண்டும். அந்த ஜில்லாக்களிலுள்ள பிரமுகர்கள், எம்.எல்.ஏ. க்கள், போன்றோர்கள் எல்லோரும் சர்க்காருடன் ஒத்துழைக்கக் காத்துக் கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். அதனால் அரசாங்கம் எந்த உதவியைச் செய்தாலும் அதை உடனடியாகச் செய்யவேண்டுமென்று நான் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். **(At this stage the Deputy Speaker occupied the Chair.)** அரசாங்கம் என்ன உதவி செய்தாலும் தனிப்பட்டவர்களும் இதில் அதிகமாக ஒத்துழைக்க வேண்டும். இங்கே சட்டசபையில் விவாதித்துக் கொண்டிருப்பதால் பிரயோசனமில்லை. இன்று புயல் அடித்து பத்து நாள்களுக்கு மேல் ஆகிவிட்டது. உடனடியாக நாம் எல்லோரும் அந்தப் பிரதேசங்களுக்குச் சென்று துன்பப்படுகிற மக்களுக்கு உதவிசெய்ய வேண்டுமென்பதாக நான் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். அதற்காகத்தான் ஒத்திவைப்புப் பிரேரணையை முன்பு கொண்டுவந்தேன். தற்பொழுது ரெவின்யூ மந்திரி அவர்கள் தஞ்சை ஜில்லாவிற்குப் போகிறார்கள். கனம் ராஜாஜியும் போகப்போகிறார். ஆங்காங்கேயுள்ள தொழில் பிரமுகர்கள் எல்லாம் தாராளமாக உதவி செய்து அங்கேயுள்ள ஏழை விவசாயி மக்களின் கஷ்டத்தைப் போக்கவேண்டும். முனிசிபாலிட்டிகள் ரோடுகள் போடுவதை எடுத்துக்கொண்டு ஏராளமான வேலையை அங்கேயுள்ளவர்களுக்குக் கொடுக்கவேண்டும். ஜில்லா நிவாரணக் கமிட்டியும், அரசாங்க நிவாரணக் கமிட்டியும், பொது மக்கள் கமிட்டியும், தனிப்பட்ட பிரமுகர்களும் புயலினால் சிக்குண்ட மக்களுக்குத் தங்களாலான எல்லாவற்றையும் செய்வதற்கு உடனடியாக வேலை செய்யவேண்டுமென்பதாகக்கேட்டுக் கொண்டு என் பேச்சை முடித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்."

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* RAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD :—" Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the cyclone that has caused great distress to these two districts is probably the worst calamity that has ever been inflicted in living memory, particularly in these two districts of Tanjore and Tiruchirappalli. While the damage to Tiruchirappalli is very great, the damage to Tanjore is probably unprecedented and is very difficult to describe, from the reports we have seen. People who have seen the damage, eye-witnesses to the damage who have come here, tell us the varied nature of the ravages that have taken place. We are glad that the Government have instructed their officials to give immediate help wherever necessary. I would have been more glad if the Government had instructed the Collectors of Tanjore and Tiruchirappalli that they could spend so many lakhs now and afterwards get the necessary sanction from the higher authorities. Although a certain amount of discretion is given to them now, they leave the Government officials in doubt. I will be glad if the Hon. Chief Minister who tours the places and the other Minister, the Revenue Minister who will also tour the Tiruchirappalli and the Pudukkottai divisions tomorrow and the day after, will convey the instructions of the Government when they see the Collectors, that they can spend up to several lakhs of rupees in the immediate future and that they can apply for more money afterwards, if necessary. More than all, the people who are living in huts and who have lost their all, should get help at once. Then come the other items such as feeding the poor people for a few weeks and all that. All these require the attention of Government. I do not want to take up the time of the House except to refer to one more matter. While I support completely the policy of the Government with regard to the levy system that has been instituted in Tanjore, I feel that in view of the damage caused to the crops in certain parts of the Tanjore district—I cannot give now a list of all the places which have been affected but from what I see, Nagapattinam and Tiruturaipundi taluks have been affected the worst, and other places in a lesser degree—the Government should get fuller details through the Revenue department as to the exact nature of the damage caused and to that extent reduce the percentage of the levy in such areas. Let them of course not reduce the levy rate in the other areas; let them reduce it only in areas where there has been damage. If they do that, it will be a good gesture on the part of the Government, and there will be real relief to the people; otherwise, they will be subjected to further distress. There should not be any persons who have been affected, but who do not get relief; our sympathy should go to all the people affected, whether it be plantain growers or sugarcane growers or paddy growers or growers of other garden crops. The damage that has now been caused in the coastal villages of Tanjore cannot of course be repaired in the course of a week or two. I know that immediate steps have been taken by the Government; but I want the Government to continue their efforts in giving relief for a

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longer time. There are many buildings that have been hit and I have no doubt that Government will continue their relief measures for as long a time as is necessary.''

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM :—'' கனம் உதவி சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, புயலினால் திருச்சி ஜில்லாவிலும் தஞ்சை ஜில்லாவிலும் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கக்கூடிய சேதங்களைப்பற்றி பத்திரிகைகளில் வந்த செய்திகள் நமக்கு அங்கு இருக்கக்கூடிய நிலைமையானது எவ்வளவு அபாயகரமானது என்பதை உணர்த்துவதற்குப் போதுமானது. சர்க்கார் எடுத்துக்கொண்டு வரக்கூடிய நடவடிக்கையையும், மந்திரிகள், ரெவின்யூ அதிகாரிகள போய் வருவதைப்பற்றியும் நான் வரவேற்கிறேன். ஆனால் எந்த உதவி செய்வதானாலும் அதை உடனடியாகச் செய்தாகவேண்டும். இன்றைக்கு 12 நாட்களுக்கு மேல் ஆகின்றது. நான் நேரிலேயே சென்று பார்த்து விட்டு வந்தேன். புயலின்போது நான் அங்கு இல்லை. 7-ந் தேதி, 8-ந் தேதி வரை அங்கே கஷ்டப்படக்கூடிய மக்களுக்கு எந்த விதமான உதவியும் அளிக்கப்படவில்லை. குறிப்பாக, அந்த இரண்டு மூன்று தினங்களில் ஜனங்கள் கஷ்டப்பட்டிருக்கக்கூடிய விவரங்களைக் கேட்கும்போது மிகவும் வருத்தத்தைக் கொடுக்கின்றது. அதிகாரிகள் புள்ளி விவரம் சேகரிக்கிறோம் என்று சொல்லி பெட்ரோலை செலவழித்துக்கொண்டு சுற்றியது தவிர, கஷ்டப்படக்கூடிய ஜனங்களுக்கு ஒரு வாய்க் கஞ்சியோ, காலணாவோ அல்லது இடிந்துபோன குடிசையைக் கட்டுவதற்குக் கம்போ அல்லது கயிறோ 8-ந் தேதி வரையில் கொடுக்கப்படவில்லை. ஜில்லா அதிகாரிகளைக் கேட்டபோது 'எங்களுக்கு 10 ரூபாய் அல்லது 15 ரூபாய் தான் செலவழிக்க அதிகாரம் இருக்கின்றது' என்றார்கள். நான் நேரிலேயே பார்த்த விஷயம். பத்திரிகையில் நம்முடைய முதன் மந்திரி அவர்களுடைய அறிக்கையைப் பார்த்தேன். 'எந்தவிதமான வரையறையும் கிடையாது; எவ்வளவு தொகை வேண்டுமானாலும் அவர்கள் செலவு செய்வதற்கு நாங்கள் அதிகாரம் அளித்திருக்கிறோம்' என்று அறிக்கையைப் பத்திரிகையில் படித்தேன். இதில் எது உண்மை என்று தெரியவில்லை. தந்தியும் டெலிபோனும் திருச்சி ஜில்லாவோடு வேலை செய்து கொண்டிருக்கிறது என்பது எனக்கு வந்திருக்கக் கூடிய செய்தி. ஏன் இவ்வளவு காலதாமதம் ஆகின்றது என்று தெரியவில்லை. அது போகட்டும். இனிச் செய்ய வேண்டியதை உடனடியாகச் செய்வதற்கு முயற்சி எடுக்க வேண்டும். சர்க்கார் முதலில் என்னென்ன கொடுக்க முடியுமோ அதைக் கொடுக்க ஏற்பாடுகள் செய்ய வேண்டும். உணவில்லாமல் கஷ்டப்பட்டுக் கொண்டும், குடிசைகளை இழந்து, துணி மணி, பாத்திரம் பண்டங்கள் அத்தனையும் இழந்த ஜனங்கள் வாங்கிக் கொள்வதற்கும் இடிந்து போன குடிசைகளைக் கட்டிக் கொள்வதற்கும், வேலை செய்ய முடியாமல் தவிக்கக் கூடிய ஜனங் களுக்கு உடனடியாக 50 ரூபாயாவது கடனாக சர்க்கார் கொடுக்க முடியுமானால், அவர்கள் கஷ்டத்தை ஒருவாறு குறைக்க முடியும்.

'' ஜனங்கள இப்படிக் கஷ்டப்பட்டுக்கொண்டிருக்கும்போது. 'வேகின்ற வீட்டில் பிடுங்கியது ஆதாயம்' என்கிறதுபோல் மூங்கில் வியாபாரிகளும், கூறை விற்பவர்களும், கட்டிட சாமான்கள் விற்பவர்களும், ஓடு, மரம் போன்ற சாமான்களின் விலையை இரண்டு மடங்குக்குமேல் ஏற்றிவிட்டார் கள். ஜில்லா கலெக்டரிடத்தில் அதைப்பற்றி தெரிவித்தபோது, 'நான் என்ன செய்வது ?' என்று அவர் சொல்லுகிறார். இப்பொழுது கட்டிட சாமான்கள் கிடைப்பதே கஷ்டமாக இருக்கிறது. துரிதமாக அந்தப் பகுதிக்கு கட்டிட சாமான்கள் போய் சேருவதற்கு வேண்டிய நடவடிக்கையை எடுத்துகொள்ள வேண்டும். கட்டிடத்திற்கு வேண்டிய மூங்கில், கயிறு, கீத்து முதலான எல்லா சாமான்களும் இந்த மாகாணத்தில் எந்தப் பகுதியில் இருந்தாலும், அவைகளை ஒன்றுசேர்த்து புயலினால் பாதிக்கப்பட்ட பகுதிக்கு வந்து சேருவதற்கு சர்க்கார் முயற்சி எடுத்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டும். 5-10 p.m.

'' அதோடுகூட, தொழிற்சாலைகளில் வேலை செய்யக்கூடிய தொழிலாளி களும். முனிசிபாலிடி முதலியவற்றில் வேலை செய்யக்கூடிய தொழிலாளி களும், தோல் பதனிடும் தொழிற்சாலைகளில் வேலை செய்யும் தொழிலாளி

களும், இவர்களுக்கெல்லாம் அந்தந்த முதலாளிகளாவது ஒருமாதச் சம்பளம் உடனடியாக அவர்களுக்கு கடனுகக் கொடுப்பது அவசியம். இதிலே சர்க்கார் உதாரணமாக இருக்கவேண்டும். சர்க்காரும், முனிசிபாலிடிகளும், ரயில்வேக்களும் அவரவர்களுடைய சிப்பந்திகளுக்கு ஒருமாதச் சம்பளம் கடனுகக் கொடுக்கவேண்டும் என்கிற உதாரணத்தை சர்க்கார் ஆரம்பித்து வைத்து, மத்திய சர்க்காருக்கும் மாகாண சர்க்கார் சிபார்சு செய்தால், அது ஓரளவுக்கு உதவியாக இருக்கும்.

" இன்னும், திருச்சி ஜில்லாவிலே பெரும்பகுதி எற்கனவே சென்ற ஐந்தாறு வருஷங்களாகவே மழை இல்லாத காரணத்தால் விவசாயமே நாசமடைந்து மக்கள் பட்டினி கிடக்கக்கூடிய நிலைமையில் இருக்கிறது, காவேரிக்கரை இரண்டு பக்கத்திலும் ஏதோ கொஞ்சம் சாகுபடியாயிருந்த வாழையும் இந்த வருஷம் நாசமடைந்துவிட்டது. இதனுல் பெரும்பாலும் பாதிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கக்கூடியவர்கள் குத்தகை விவசாயிகள், கொஞ்சம் கொஞ்சம் நிலம் வைத்துக்கொண்டிருக்கக்கூடிய விவாயிகள் பாதிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிருர்கள். அப்பேர்ப்பட்டவர்களுக்கு குத்தகையை ரத்து செய்வதற்கு எனனென்ன வசதி செய்யவேண்டுமென்பதில் சர்க்கார் நடவடிக்கை எடுக்க வேண்டும்."

Sri P. B. K. RAJACHIDAMBARAM :—" Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I stand before the House as one who has actually been in the midst of the storm on that memorable day, the 30th November 1952. As a matter of fact, without knowing that there was a storm, I was actually travelling with the storm calculating that if at all the storm came, it must be the next day. Probably, had I known that I was in the storm, I would not have been on the road and so, not had the opportunity of witnessing trees falling down one after another just after my car had passed; otherwise, I would not have been here now in this House to tell you about it. The next day only I learned that I was just in the midst of the storm and that is how I saw the devastating effects of the storm.

" Of course, no one is responsible for it; I do not agree with the Hon. the Revenue Minister that it is an act of God. Why should we unnecessarily accuse God for this act? The extent of the damage has been reported in various ways by various persons and so I hold that the extent of the damage has not been properly assessed. A few days back, we saw the president of a responsible political organization issue a statement that about 50,000 acres of plantation crop had been damaged in Tiruchirappalli district. It is a case of gross exaggeration. But at the same time (the Hon. Sri C. Rajagopalachari : ' That is our habit.') I saw another report issued by the Collector of Tiruchirappalli saying that after all the damage in that district is not so much. Either an exaggerated or an underestimate of the damage need not weigh with the Government when they are seeking to do what they can to alleviate the distress among the people of the districts affected by the cyclone. Personally, I had the opportunity of visiting certain places in the company of the District Collector and we saw a village officer. Giving a report of the damage to the Collector, the village officer, when asked about the extent of the damage, said that the total area under plantation crops was 180 acres and when the Collector asked him how much of it would have been damaged, he said that it might be about 10 acres. This mentality of the

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village officer underestimating the damage and of the Collector relying upon it and sending a report based upon it to the Government must change at least now. I wish the village officers are asked to visit every patch of land affected and give a correct estimate to the Government so that the Government may be aware of where we are instead of believing in either exaggerated reports of political bodies or of underestimate of permanent officials of Government.

"There is also another factor to be considered in connexion with the approach to relief. I do not wait that it should be approached as if it were an act of charity. People in Tiruchirappalli and Tanjore districts are not responsible for the cyclone and simply because they live in those districts, they have been affected and I do not know how any relief measure could be viewed as an act of charity. I submit that as a citizen of India, every citizen living in those parts of the districts, is entitled to be protected, be it an act of God or an act of man. The view of the Relief Committees and of the officers who act on behalf of such Committees that they are doing an act of charity simply because the victims are helpless and they should, therefore, be given some food and clothing so that they may get some temporary relief, that sort of view must go and I think the Hon. the Chief Minister will instruct his officers and Relief Committees not to view relief as an act of charity but to do it on the principle that the right of the citizens to be protected is just being extended to them.

"It is well to remember that public institutions like schools and hospitals have been affected by the cyclone and the Government must come forward quickly and take steps to see that the damaged buildings are repaired. As the Hon. the Minister for Revenue has pointed out, many tanks have been affected by breaches on account of the floods and in the Pudukkottai and Tiruchirappalli areas, communications have been interrupted and I, therefore, appeal to the Government to take early steps to restore communications. In conclusion, I appeal to the Government to get the damaged buildings belonging to public institutions quickly repaired and also see that the people who have been affected are helped in the spirit of protection being extended to them and not give relief as acts of charity wherever it is necessary, whether they are rich or poor."

5–20 p.m.

Sri R. M. Palaniappan :—" கனம் உப தலைவர் அவர்களே, இந்தக் கடுமையான புயலிலிருந்து இந்த சட்டசபை அங்கத்தினர் கனம் ராஜா சிதம்பரம் அவர்கள் தப்பித்துக்கொண்டு வந்ததற்காக நான் என்னுடைய மகிழ்ச்சியைத் தெரிவித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். புயலில் அகப்பட்டுக்கொண்டு நேரில் கண்டதுகளைக் சொல்லவிரும்புகிறேன். புயல் எந்த விதமாக இருந்தது என்றால் சுமார் ஐந்து மணி காலம் அடித்தது. என்னுடைய தொகுதியில் மக்கள் ஒருவரை ஒருவர் பார்க்கமுடியாமல் அந்தந்த இடத்திலேயே இருந்தார்கள். புயலின் வேகம் அவர்களால் வெளியில் சென்று தங்களுடைய குழந்தைகளைக்கூட பார்க்கமுடியாமல் போயிற்று. பேப்பரில் பார்த்திருக்கிறோம், பறக்கும் தட்டுகள் அமெரிக்காவிலிருந்தும் ஐரோப்பாவிலிருந்தும் வருகின்றன வென்று. அந்த மாதிரியான புயலைப் பார்த்தார்கள். பறக்கும் குடிசைகள் வந்து கொண்டிருந்ததை.

ஏழை மக்களின் குடிசைகள் பறந்து ½ பர்லாங், ஒரு பர்லாங் தூரத்திற்கு அப்பால் போய் விழுந்தன. என்னுடைய தொகுதியில் காவேரி மில்லில் சேதம் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது என்று சொல்லுகிறார்கள். எலெக்ட்ரிக் சப்ளை போக்கு வரத்து சுமார் ஒரு வாரத்திற்கு முன்புதான் எனது தொகுதிக்குக் கொண்டுவந்திருப்பதாக என்னுடைய தொகுதியிலிருந்து எனக்கு கடிதங்கள் வந்திருக்கின்றன. மற்றபடி பாக்கி விஷயங்களை யெல்லாம் நாம் பத்திரிக்கை வாயிலாக பார்த்திருக்கிறோம். அதை மறுபடியும் சொல்வதில் பிரயோஜனமில்லை. உடனடியாக சர்க்கார் என்ன செய்ய வேண்டும் என்பதைப்பற்றி யோசிக்கவேண்டும். புயல் அடித்த மறுநாள் என்னுடைய தொகுதியில் ஒரு ஓடானது ஒரு ரூபாய் விலைக்கு விற்கப்பட்டது. உடனே என்னுடைய தொகுதி ரிவினியூ டிவிஷனல் ஆபீசர் அங்கு போய் அவ்விதம் விற்கிறவர்களெல்லோரையும் கூப்பிட்டு 'அந்த மாதிரி விற்கக் கூடாது, நீங்கள் எல்லோரும் 10 பர் செண்டு லாபம் வைத்துத்தான் விற்க வேண்டும்' என்று ஏற்பாடு செய்தார். திருச்சி ஜில்லா கலெக்டரும் மற்ற கலெக்டர்களும் என்ன செய்திருக்கிறார்களோ தெரியாது. எங்கள் பகுதியில் ரிவினியூ டிவிஷனல் ஆபீசர் அவர்கள் எல்லா பகுதிகளுக்கும் சென்று விலைவாசிகள் ஏற விடாமல் நடவடிக்கைகள் எடுத்துக்கொண்டு வருகிறார். கேட்காமல் விலைவாசிகளை ஏற்றிவிற்றால் ஜெயிலுக்கு அனுப்பி விடுவோம் என்று சொல்லி இருப்பதாகக்கூட கடிதம் வந்திருக்கிறது. இப்பொழுது நாம் என்ன செய்யவேண்டும் ? அந்தப் பகுதியில் குடிசைஇல்லாதவர்களுக்கு குடிசைகள் கட்டிக்கொள்வதற்கு ஏற்பாடு செய்யவேண்டும். இப்பொழுது தஞ்சை ஜில்லாவிலுள்ள தென்னை மரங்களெல்லாம் அடியோடு விழுந்து விட்டன. எங்கு கீத்துகள் கிடைக்கின்றனவோ—மலபாரில் தென்னை கீத்துகள் அதிகமாகக் கிடைக்கிறது—உடனடியாக அந்தப் பகுதியிலிருந்து தென்னங்கீத்துகளைக் கொண்டு வந்து குடிசை இல்லாதவர்கள் உடனடியாக வாங்குவதற்கு ஏற்பாடு செய்ய வேண்டும். அதோடு கூட சுமார் இரண்டு வார காலத்திற்கு அவர்களுக்கு கஞ்சித் தொட்டிகள் திறந்து அவர்களுக்கு சாப்பாடுகள் வழங்கவேண்டும். முதல் மந்திரி அவர்களும், ரிவினியூ மந்திரி அவர்களும் அந்தத்தொகுதிகளுக்கு நேரில் சென்று பார்க்க வருகிறார்கள். அவர்கள் எல்லாவற்றையும் செய்வார்கள் என்று மக்கள் காத்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். இன்னொரு விஷயம் அதாவது புதுக்கோட்டை முனிசிபாலிட்டி பஞ்ச நிவாரணத்திற்காக சுமார் ரூ. 5,000 நன்கொடையாக அளிக்கவேண்டும் என்று தீர்மானம் செய்திருக்கிறார்கள். அந்தத் தீர்மானத்தை அரசாங்கத்திற்கு இவ்வளவு நாளில் அனுப்பி இருப்பார்கள். இந்தத் தீர்மானத்தை அரசாங்கம் ஆதரித்து அனுமதி கொடுத்து உடனடியாக தொகையை அவர்களுக்குக் கொடுக்க அனுமதிக்க வேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். புதுக்கோட்டைப் பகுதியில பஞ்ச நிவாரணத்திற்காக கலெக்டர் முதலியவர்கள் எல்லோரும் சேர்ந்து புயல் நிவாரண கமிட்டி ஒன்று ஏற்படுத்தி இருக்கிறார்கள். இந்த கமிட்டிக்கு சென்னை மாகாண சர்க்கார் மத்திய சர்க்காருக்கு சிபாரிசு செயது நிவாரணததிற்காக கொடுக்கும் பணத்திற்கு 'Income-tax' இல்லாமல் வசதி செய்து கொடுத்தால் அதிகப்படியான பணம் வசூல் செய்யமுடியும் என்று நம்புகிறேன்."

Sri S. Swayamprakasam :—" Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, coming as I do from Tanjore district I really welcome the move made by the Government in order to give relief to the people who have suffered from the recent cyclone in the south. While I was returning here on the 3rd of December from Tanjore, I was actually amdist the cyclone. The hon. Member Mr. Rajachidambaram said that he was accidentally involved in the storm. But I can say that he was only in the room and not in the storm. It was I, who came from Tanjore here on the 3rd and made the statement about the cyclone in Tanjore, who was actually in the midst of the cyclone. I know its full rigour. All sections of the people

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in Tanjore, the mirasidars, the tenants, the actual labourers—all have been put to all sorts of difficulties. Old huts of the labourers have been uprooted. Plantations have been destroyed. The exact extent of the damage has not yet been assessed. Till I made the announcement on the floor of the House on the 3rd instant, nobody seems to have had any knowledge about the cyclone. Again while I was coming here a second time, the leading Congress member Sri Sivagnana Gramani, was also coming from Tirutturaipundi and was travelling with me. When we bought a paper in the train to know whether any news about the cyclone has appeared we found nothing. On the 29th November, the Madras papers published that something was going to happen from Nagapattinam onwards. That was a signal. But no news subsequent to that date had come. Till I made the announcement on the floor of the House, the Press had not published any news about the cyclone, while the fact was that the cyclone had started much earlier. The Press had been unkind to us in that matter. At the time the Nagapattinam signal was given, it was raining in Tanjore. That was not reported in the papers. Till my announcement, even the Government do not seem to have had any knowledge about the cyclone. That shows how the Government functioning here is keeping in touch with the district administration. I was told that there is something called the ' wireless '. But the Government were not able to get any first-hand information. It was reported that communications had broken down.

" We have had not only the cyclone. After the cyclone we have had very heavy rains. On the 2nd of December we formed a sub-committee for giving relief to the victims of the cyclone. When I returned on the 6th there was a heavy downpour of rain. It was continually raining for some days. This was worse than the cyclone. While the roofs had been removed by the cyclone, the rains removed the walls. The extent of the damage was very great in Tanjore. We formed a District Committee on the 8th December. Even on that day, viz., the 8th December, though several days had passed after the cyclone and there were rains still, the Collector was not in a position to tell us the relief measures he proposed to undertake or had undertaken. On the 9th I saw that the Hon. Chief Minister had given the Collectors a blank cheque empowering them to use their full discretion in the matter of providing any amount of relief which they thought proper. As a matter of fact the Government now say that they do not have enough money to provide relief on a proportionate scale."

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member has got only one minute."

SRI S. SWAYAMPRAKASAM :—" Nothing had been done till the 9th instant. On the 9th instant I wanted to go to Tiruvaiyar, my home town. I wanted to know the extent of damage caused there. But what was the sight I saw there? The whole road from Tiruvaiyar to Thirukkattuppalli and Kandiyur to Thirukkattuppalli was blocked. The trees had fallen and blocked the

road. Formerly I was told that the Collector had ordered that the trees should be removed and the road cleared. But later on the villagers were told that the removed trees had to be brought to the office. So some of the roads were blocked with trees. The road was completely blocked.

5-30 p.m "This is what has happened, Sir. I find from the tour programme of the Hon. Chief Minister that he is going to visit that district and he proposes to go from taluk to taluk. I request him to make his proposed visit to the several places in that district a confidential thing. He should not let his movements be known beforehand to anybody; and I want him to make surprise visits to places not mentioned in his tour programme. Then only he can know the real state of affairs in the district. If he makes known the places he is going to visit in his tour the authorities will clear the road there only. (Laughter.) Because the authorities in their latest order have stated that the villagers, when they clear the road of the fallen trees, should not take away the branches and trunks; many roads have not been cleared even to-day. For the last two days I do not know what is happening there, as I am here.

"Then, Sir, the impression of the Madras Government and the Central Government seems to be that the standing crops are not affected by the cylone. On this subject I want to point out to the Government that the real position there is this. The top portion of the standing crops has become scorched, and I urge on the Hon. Minister for Agriculture that it is high time the Government sent an expert there to see whether anything can be done to save the crop from perishing. I also request Government to send one of their responsible officers to assess the real damage done to crops. I am afraid the damage will be ranging from 40 per cent to 50 per cent; and when that is the case if the Hon. Food Minister is to calculate for the levy system of procurement on the full yield of the produce the mirasidars will be put to much difficulty. As far as can be seen at present, it is doubtful whether even half the normal yield can be secured.

"Sir, I have to make another submission in this connexion. I find that various leaders of various parties are touring the district to see how much damage and distress has been caused to that district. On this point I request Government to see that in assessing damage, Tanjore district may not be made a subject-matter for political propaganda. For it is likely various leaders may submit reports to Government to afford necessary relief to the people. Probably they may give exaggerated things about certain places and minimise things about certain other places so that one area may be given undue preference in relief to another. I want that that should not take place. Sir, I want Government to be careful in assessing the real damages."

Sri VADIVELU :—" கனம் உதவி சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, 1952-ம் ஸ்ரீ நவம்பர்மீ 30-ந்தேதி அடித்த புயல் காற்றினால் தஞ்சை ஜில்லாவில் பெரும்பாலான சேதம் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது. குறிப்பாக எங்கள் நாகைப்

12th December 1952] [Sri Vadivelu]

பட்டிணத்தில் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கும் சேதம் சொல்லமுடியாது. நாகை நகரத்தில் மட்டும் சுமார் 80 லக்ஷம் ரூபாய்களுக்குமேல் சேதம் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது. பள்ளிகூடங்களும், வைத்தியசாலைகளும், பொதுக் கட்டிடங்கள், தனிப்பட்டோர்களின் வீடுகளும் ஏராளமாகச் சேதம் அடைந்திருக்கின்றன. மனிதர்கள் மட்டும் நாகைப்பட்டிணத்தில் சுமார் 60 பேருக்கு மேல் இறந்திருக்கிறார்கள். நான் நேரிடையாகச் சென்று பார்த்தேன். ஆனால் சில இடங்களில் இறந்தவர்களைக்கூட ஜனங்கள் சொல்லாமல் சர்க்கார் எங்கே தண்டனை கொடுப்பார்களோ என்று பயந்துகொண்டு இருந்திருக்கிறார்கள். அடுத்தபடியாக மாடுகளின் சேதம் மாத்திரம் சுமார் பத்தாயிரத்திற்கு மேல் இருக்கும். நகரின் விஸ்தீர்ணம் மாத்திரம் 26 மைலிருக்கும். அகலத்தில் 4 மைல் விஸ்தீர்ணம். அந்தப்பக்கத்தில் 50 ஆயிரம் ஏக்கருக்கு மேல் நல்ல நிலம் இந்தப் புயல் காற்றினால் பாழ்பட்டுப் போய் விட்டது. உப்பளத்தண்ணீர் அடித்துப் போய் வீணாகி இருக்கிறது. 4 ஆயிரம் கலம் நெல் விளையக்கூடிய பூமியுள்ள தலைஞாயிரில் இன்றைய தினம் பத்து கலம் கூட விளையாது போலிருக்கிறது. ஆகையால் சர்க்கார் புயல் காற்றினால் சேதம் அடைந்துபோன பிரதேசங்கள் எல்லாவற்றிற்கும் நிவாரணம் அளிக்க வேண்டும். மக்களின் கஷ்டத்தைப் போக்கவேண்டும். காற்று அடித்ததினால் வீடுகள் இழந்து ஒருபுறம் மழையினால் தங்குவதற்கு இடமின்றி தவிக்கின்றது ஒரு புறம், இநத கோரத்திற்கு இடையில் வேலையில்லாமல் பணமில்லாமல் உணவு வாங்க முடியாமல் தவிக்கின்றது ஒரு புறம். ஆக அந்தப் பிரதேசங்களில் இருக்கின்ற மக்களின் சோகக் குரலை யாராலும் கேட்கமுடியாது. மழையினால் இறந்தது போக பலர் இன்றையதினம் சாப்பிட உணவு இல்லாமல் தெருக்களில் இறந்து விழுந்து கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். ஆகையினால் சர்க்கார் தலையிட்டு மக்களுக்கு வேண்டிய எல்லா உதவியையும் செய்யவேண்டுமென்பதாக நான் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்."

* SRI S. VENKATRAMA AYYAR :—" Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Tanjore district, the granary of South India, is now the victim of a devastating cyclone. It has had a very rude shock and shake-up, and we do not know what time it will take for that district to recover and attain its previous glory. At any rate it has evoked the kind sympathy of the entire public of our State; and not only of the public of our State but also of the people of other States, of the President of the Republic of India and of our revered Prime Minister of India, all of whom have been generous enough to send contributions at once. His Excellency the Governor of Madras has been kind enough to organize a Tanjore Cyclone Relief Committee at once to afford all possible measures of relief to that afflicted district. Sir, within the short time at our disposal in this House I do not think it is possible to describe the tale of woe in that district. Sir, I come from Adirampatnam, a coastal town in Pattukkottai taluk of Tanjore district. There, 90 per cent of the ryotwari pattadars have been all along for the last several years only ryots in zamindari and inam areas. Now, because of the Zamindari Abolition Act, they have become ryotwari tenants, and they have been looking forward this year to enjoy the full fruits of their full proprietary rights. They are now enjoying absolute rights over the soil. Ninety per cent of the ryots are rearing coconut topes. Even from the official reports I find that about 35 per cent of the topes have been devastated or damaged. From other reports I have—for I have received a number of letters and various resolutions passed by Congress Committees —I find from all of them that 75 per cent of the coconut trees have fallen down. Just imagine, Sir, what havoc and loss of wealth

has been caused to these people, who have had their all in coconut topes. As for the fishermen living in the coastal line extending from Muthupet to Kottaipatnam and Tondi in Arantangi taluk, you can imagine several fishermen's lives having been lost. The survivors have been rendered homeless. The immediate problem there is that they should be given huts for shelter and nets for catching fish. Otherwise they cannot eke out their living. This is a great calamity for the fishermen living in thousands in Adirampatnam and the adjoining coastal line. They have all been rendered homeless and their nets have been washed away, and nothing is left for them to eke out their living. In Pattukkottai taluk I understand 9,000 cattle have perished As for the destruction of trees, every kind of tree has been affected. The taluk which was reputed to be a dry area abounding in fruit-bearing trees like mango, jack, plantain and tamarind trees (not to speak of casuarina)—of course, Sir, after the advent of the Cauveri-Mettur Project some varieties of these trees do not thrive in this taluk—all these trees have suffered badly, and from all reports I understand the Pattukkottai Division to-day presents the appearance of a Sahara desert. There is not a tree left standing to afford any shade. It will take several years for the coconut topes to be restored. Coconut trees take 12 to 14 years to yield any fruit; and, as for tamarind, jack and mango trees, they have all perished. It is an irretrievable loss. Then, Sir, as for the loss incurred by the local boards—I know something of the working of the panchayats and the municipalities in the district and the Tanjore District Board—several school buildings and medical institutions have been damaged and so Government should at once come to the rescue of these local boards. Sir, as my time is over I resume my seat.''

5-40 p.m. * **Sri A. GOVINDASWAMI NAYAGAR**:—'' கனம் உதவி சபா நாயகர் அவர்களே, புயலடித்து 10, 12 தினங்கள் ஆனபிறகு இப்போதாவது சர்க்கார் அதற்கு வேண்டிய நிவாரணமளிக்க முன் வந்ததற்காக சர்க்காரை நான் பாராட்டுகிறேன். பாராட்டும் போது சர்க்காருடைய கவனத்திற்குச் சில விஷயங்களையும் ஞாபகப்படுத்த விரும்புகிறேன். அதாவது, இந்த புயலைப் பற்றியும், ஏராளமாக பெய்த மழையினால் ஏற்பட்ட வெள்ளத்தைப் பற்றியும், அதன் காரணமாக ஏற்பட்ட சேதங்களைப்பற்றியும் சட்டசபையிலே விவாதிக்கவேண்டுமென்று கொண்டுவந்த அவசரப் பிரேரணையை அப்பொழுது தள்ளிவிட்டார்கள். அப்பொழுது அதைத் தள்ளியிருக்கவேண்டிய அவசியம் கிடையாது. மக்கள் அங்கு மடிந்து கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். பயிரெல்லாம் சேதமாய்க்கொண்டிருக்கும்போது, அதுதான் முக்கியமேயல்லாது நாம் இங்கு கூடியிருக்கவேண்டிய அவசியம் கிடையாது. இது சம்பந்தமாக டெல்லியிலுள்ள மக்கள் சபையில், தென்னிந்தியாவிலிருந்து போயிருக்கக்கூடிய மெம்பர்கள் இந்தப் பிரச்னையை எழுப்பிய காலத்தில், 'சென்னை சர்க்கார் இதற்காக எந்தவிதமான நிவாரணமும் கோரவில்லை' சென்னை சர்க்கார் கேட்டால் நாங்கள் உதவி செய்யத் தயாராய் இருக்கிறோம், என்று பிரதம மந்திரி நேரு போன்றவர்கள் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். ஏன் நமது ராஜாஜி சர்க்கார் சும்மா இருக்கிறார்கள் என்று எனக்குப் புரியவில்லை.

'' இந்த புயல் ஏற்பட்டு 10, 12 தினங்கள் ஆகிவிட்டன. குறிப்பாக முதல் மந்திரியார் அவர்களும், உணவு மந்திரியார் அவர்களும், ரெவின்யூ மந்திரி, ஸ்ரீ மாணிக்கவேலு நாயக்கர் அவர்களும், விவசாய மந்திரி அவர்களும் ஆக நால்வரும் இந்த இரண்டு ஜில்லாக்களிலே சுற்றுப்பிரயாணம் செய்திருக்க வேண்டும்.

12th December 1952] [Sri A. Govindaswami Nayagar]

" ஏதாவது புதுத் தேர்தல் வருகிறதென்றால் அந்த இடத்திற்கு எல்லா மந்திரிகளும் போகிறார்கள். புயலுக்குப் பிறகு புயலினால் ஏற்பட்ட சேதத்தைப் பார்க்க ஏன் இவர்கள் இன்னும் போகவில்லையென்று தான் எனக்குப் புரியவில்லை. அவசியம் போயிருக்கவேண்டும். மத்திய சர்க்காரிலிருந்து போதுமான நிவாரணத்தை கோரியிருக்கவேண்டும். மத்திய சர்க்காரும் நிதி உதவியிருக்கவேண்டும். பீகாரில் ஏற்பட்ட பூகம்பத்திற்கும், வங்காளத்தில் ஏற்பட்ட பஞ்சத்திற்கும் தென்னிந்தியர்களாகிய நாம் ஏராளமாக நிதி உதவியிருக்கின்றோம். அதைப் போலவே. வடநாட்டார்களும் நமக்கு உதவி அளித்திருக்கவேண்டும். சென்னை சர்க்கார் கேட்டிராவிட்டால் கூட சேதத்தை அறிந்தவுடனே அவர்கள் தாங்களாகவே உதவி அளித்திருக்கவேண்டும். அதை அவர்கள் செய்ய முன்வரவில்லையென்று நான் சொல்லாமல் இருக்கமுடியவில்லை.

" இனியாவது மந்திரிகள் அங்கு புறப்படவேண்டும். இன்றிரவு புறப்படுவதாகச் சொன்னார்கள். எல்லா மந்திரிகளும் அந்த இடத்திற்குப் போகவேண்டும். போனால்தான் நிவாரணம் அளிக்கமுடியும். குறிப்பாக நான் சொன்ன நான்கு மந்திரிகளும் அங்கு போகவேண்டும். அங்கு ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிற சேதத்தினால் மக்களுக்கு உண்ண உணவு இல்லை. கால்நடைகள் அனேக ஆயிரக்கணக்கானவை இறந்துவிட்டன. மக்கள் சாப்பிடுவதற்கு உணவில்லாமல் பல கஷ்டங்களுக்குள்ளாகியிருக்கிறார்கள். 'சோழ வள நாடு சோறுடைத்து' என்று புகழ்பட்ட தஞ்சை ஜில்லாவானது இன்று புயலினால் பாதிக்கப்பட்டு மக்கள் உணவில்லாமல் கஷ்டப்படுகிறார்களென்று சொன்னால், தஞ்சை ஜில்லாவை மட்டும் பாதிக்கக்கூடிய விஷயமல்ல. அது இந்த மாகாணத்தையே பாதிக்கக்கூடிய விஷயமாகும் தஞ்சை ஜில்லாவிலிருந்து வருகிற நெல் தான் கோயமுத்தூருக்குத் தேவையாயிருக்கிறது. சேலம் ஜில்லாவிற்கும் அது தேவையாயிருக்கிறது. ஆகவே, பஞ்சப் பிரதேசமாக இருக்கின்ற கோயமுத்தூர், சேலம் ஜில்லாவிற்கு சரியான முறையில் உணவு அளிக்கவேண்டுமென்றால், தஞ்சை ஜில்லாவைக் கவனிக்கவேண்டியிருக்கிறது. உடனடியாக கவனம் செலுத்தப்படவேண்டிய விஷயம் இது. கலெக்டர் கவனிப்பார் என்று நாம் சும்மா இருக்கக்கூடாது. எல்லோரும் அங்கு போய் ஆகவேண்டிய நிவாரணவேலைகளைச் செய்யவேண்டுமென்று நான் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

" நிதி மந்திரி அவர்களுடைய ஜில்லாவிலிருந்தும், மலையாள ஜில்லாவிலிருந்தும் மூங்கில், கீத்து போன்ற சாமான்கள் தஞ்சை, திருச்சி ஜில்லாக்களுக்கு வருவதற்கு ஏற்பாடு செய்யவேண்டும். மலையாளத்தில் இருக்கக்கூடிய மூங்கில் காடுகளையெல்லாம் அழிக்கவேண்டும். மலையாளத்திலிருந்து வந்திருக்கக்கூடிய மந்திரி அவர்கள் மலையாள தேசத்திற்குப் போய், கீத்து, மூங்கில் எல்லாம் கொண்டுவந்து உதவ வேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகின்றேன்.

" குத்தகைக்கு நிலங்களை எடுத்து, வாழை போன்ற பயரிடுபவர்கள் இந்தப் புயலினால் பாதிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்களால் குத்தகைப் பணத்தைக் கொடுக்க முடியவில்லை. ஆகவே, அவர்கள் குத்தகை கொடுக்க முடியாத நிலையைக் கவனித்து அவர்கள் குத்தகை கொடுக்கவேண்டியதில்லை என்று உத்தரவிடவேண்டும். அப்பொழுதுதான் அவர்கள் நிலத்தை சொந்தக்காரர்களிடமிருந்து காப்பாற்றிக்கொள்ள முடியும்.

" குன்னியூர் சாம்பசிவ அய்யர், வடபாதி மங்கலம் தியாகராஜ முதலியார் போன்ற பெரிய நிலச் சுவாந்தார்களெல்லாம் பதுக்கி வைத்துக் கொண்டிருக்கின்ற நெல்லையெல்லாம் வாங்கி ஏழைகளுக்கு நியாயவிலைக்குக் கொடுத்துதவ நீங்கள் முயற்சி எடுத்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டும். அவர்களிடம் நெல் ஏராளமாக பதுக்கி வைக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. இப்பொழுது கள்ள மார்க்கெட்டில் அதிக விலைக்கு விற்கப்படுகிறது. சாதாரணமாக பஞ்சத்தால் வாடிக் கொண்டிருக்கிற மக்களுக்கு சர்க்கார் உடனடியாக கவனம் செலுத்துவது அவர்கள் கடமையாகும். ஆகவே, நீங்கள் அந்த இடங்களுக்குச் சென்று, அந்த நெல்லையெல்லாம் மக்களுக்கு நியாய விலையில் கிடைக்கும்படிச் செய்யவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகின்றேன்.

'' தஞ்சை ஜில்லாவுக்குப் பக்கத்தில் தென்னாற்காடு ஜில்லா இருக்கிறது, தஞ்சையில் வந்த புயல் தென்னாற்காட்டு ஜில்லாவிலுள்ள சிதம்பரம், பரங்கிப்பேட்டை போன்ற இடங்களிலும் ஓரளவு நாசத்தை விளைவித்திருக்கிறது. அந்த அளவிலே தஞ்சைக்கு ஏற்பட்ட ஆபத்து திருச்சி ஜில்லாவிற்கும் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது. தஞ்சை ஜில்லாவிலிருந்து வருகிற வாழைக்காய் முதலியவை இனி வரமுடியாது. ஆகையால் வாழைக்காயினுடைய விலை ஏறும். இன்னும் அங்கு மக்களெல்லாம் மடிந்திருக்கிறார்கள். பத்திரிகைகளில் வந்துக்கொண்டிருந்த செய்தியைப் பார்த்தபிறகும் நாம் சட்டசபையில் இருந்து கொண்டிருப்பதில் அர்த்தமில்லை. சட்டசபை அலுவல்களை முடித்துவிட்டுப்போகிறோம் என்று சொல்லுகிறார்கள். மக்கள் அங்கு மடிந்துகொண்டிருக்கும்போது, ஏன் மந்திரிகள் இங்கு இருக்கவேண்டும் ? யாருடைய வோட்டும் குறைந்தால் என்ன செய்வது என்ற எண்ணமா ? அப்படியிருந்தால், முதல் மந்திரியாருக்குத்தான் வோட்டு இல்லையே ! அவர்கள் அங்கு போய் நிலைமையை இரண்டொரு நாட்கள் கவனித்திருக்கலாம். ஆகவே, நான் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகின்றேன், இப்பொழுதாவது நான்கு மந்திரிகளும் அங்கு சென்று, மக்களுக்கு ஆகவேண்டிய காரியங்களை கவனிக்கவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகின்றேன.''

Sri R. RANGASWAMI GOUNDER :—'' கனம் உதவி சபா நாயகர் அவர்களே, சமீபத்தில் புயலால் பாதிக்கப்பட்ட பிரதேசங்களாகிய தஞ்சை திருச்சி ஜில்லாக்களோடு சேலம் ஜில்லாவும் ஒன்று. சேலம் ஜில்லா நாமக்கல் தாலூகாக்களில் காவேரி பாசன பிரதேசங்களில் புயல் காரணமாக வாழை, கொடிக்கால் (வெற்றிலை) போன்ற முக்கியமான விளை பொருள்கள் அதிகம் சேதம் அடைந்துள்ள. வாழை பயிரிடுவதற்கு அதிகம் செலவாகும் என்பதை அநேகமாக எல்லோருக்கும் தெரிந்திருக்கும். வாழைக்கு உரம் மூங்கில் முதலிய விலை உயர்ந்த சாமான்களை வாங்கி பயிரிட வேண்டி இருக்கிறது. அப்படி பயிரிட்டும் புயல் காரணமாக அவைகளெல்லாம் ஒரே நாளில் விழுந்து விட்டதால் மேற்படி குத்தகைக் காரர்களும் நிலச் சுவாந்தார்களும் அதிகமாக பாதிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். ஆதலால் உடனடியாக சர்க்கார் அதிகமாக கடன் கொடுத்து மறுபடியும் வேறு மகசூல் ஆரம்பிக்க உதவி செய்ய வேண்டும் என்று சர்க்காரைச் கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

'' அடுத்தபடியாக கொடிக்கால், அதாவது வெற்றிலை பயிரிடும் நிலங்களில் (வெற்றிலையை எல்லா விதமான பயிர்களையும் விட அதிகமான விலைக்கு விற்கிறார்கள்) அவைகளைப் பயிரிடுவதற்கு அதிகமான பொருள் செலவழித்திருக்கிறார்கள். இப்பொழுது கொடிக்கால் பயிர்கள் அழிந்துவிட்டதால் வேறு விதமாக உற்பத்தி பண்ணுவதற்கு வேண்டிய தொகைகளைக் கொடுத்து உதவுமாறு நான் சர்க்காரைக் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். வாழை, கொடிக்கால் பயிரிட்ட நிலங்களில் குத்தகைத் தொகையைக் கொடுக்க ஒரு வருஷம் தள்ளிப் போடவேண்டும். அடுத்த வருஷம் வசூலித்துக் கொள்ள ஏற்பாடு செய்ய வேண்டும் என்று கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகிறேன். முக்கியமாக நாமக்கல் தாலூகா மோகனூர் பிராந்தியத்தில் சேதம் அதிகமாக இருப்பதால் மந்திரி அவர்களின் தஞ்சை ஜில்லா பிரயாணத்தின் போது நாமக்கல் தாலூகாவையும் தங்களுடைய பிரயாணத்தில் சேர்த்துக் கொள்ளுமாறு கேட்டுக்கொண்டு என்னுடைய உரையை முடித்துக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்.''

Sri G. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU :—''கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே ! இப்பொழுது புயல் காற்றினால் ஏற்பட்ட சேதத்தைப்பற்றி இங்கே பூர்ண வர்ணனை கொடுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. சர்க்காரின் பேரில் குற்றம் சாட்டுவதைத் தவிர வேறு ஒன்றும் உருப்படியான யோசனைகளை யாரும் கூறவில்லை. இப்பொழுது அந்தப் புயலினால் பாதிக்கப்பட்ட பிரதேசங்களுக்கு வீடுகள் கட்டிக் கொடுக்க கீத்துக்கள், கயிறுகள் வாங்க யாரும் மலையாளத்திற்குப் போக வேண்டியதில்லை. ஏராள மரங்கள் விழுந்திருக்கின்றன. அவைகளிலுள்ள மட்டைகளையெல்லாம் ஒரு நாளில் கீத்தாக வேய்ந்துவிட முடியும். அவர்களுக்கு வேலை செய்தால் கூலிதான் கொடுக்கவேண்டும்.

12th December 1952] [Sri G. Narayanaswami Nayudu]

அவர்களுக்கு கொஞ்சம் பண ஒத்தாசைதான் கொடுக்கவேண்டும். விவசாயம் பாதிக்காமலிருக்க எல்லா ஏற்பாடுகளையும் செய்தாக வேண்டும். முனிசிபாலிட்டிகள், ஜில்லா போர்டுகள் போன்ற ஸ்தாபனங்கள் ரோடு போடும் வேலைகளை எடுத்துக் கொண்டு வேலையில்லாதவர்களுக்கு வேலை கொடுக்க ஏற்பாடு செய்யவேண்டும்.

"இன்னொரு விஷயம். இப்பொழுது ஒவ்வொரு கோயிலிற்கும், ஒவ்வொரு மடத்திற்கும் லக்ஷகணக்கான பணம் இருக்கிறது. அவற்றை யெல்லாம் ஜில்லா போர்டு முனிஸிபாலிட்டிகள் போன்றவைகளுக்கு மிகக் குறைந்த வட்டிக்குக் கடனாகக் கொடுத்து உதவி செய்யவேண்டும். அப் பொழுது அவர்கள் பணக்கஷ்டம் இல்லாமல் எல்லா வேலைகளையும் செய்ய முடியும்.

"குறிப்பாக இப்பொழுது பல நடுத்தர வகுப்பார்கள் வீடும், குடிசைகளும் விழுந்துவிட்டன. அதோடு நிறையப் புளியமரம் சேதமாகியிருக்கிறது. என்னுடைய நகரத்தைப் பொறுத்தவரையில் தென்னைமரம் 10%ம், 40% புளியமரமும் விழுந்திருக்கிறது. ஜில்லா பூராவாகவும் வாழை மரம் ஒன்று கூட இல்லாமல் சேதமாகியிருக்கிறது. வாழை மரத்தை வைத்திருப்ப வர்கள் குடியானவர்கள். அந்தத் தோட்டங்கள் ஒன்று மடத்தைச் சேர்ந்ததாக இருக்கும். அல்லாத பக்ஷத்தில் கோயிலைச் சேர்ந்த தோட்டமாக இருக்கும். வாழை லாபகரமான பயிராதலால், நெல்லில் ஏற்படுகின்ற நஷ்டத்தை எல்லாம் அவர்கள் வாழைத் தோட்டத்தில்தான் ஈடு செய்து கொள்வார்கள். இந்தப் பயிரிலே அதிக நஷ்டம் ஏற்பட்டு விட்டதால் அவர்களால் கடனை அடைக்கமுடியாத நிலைமையில் இருக் கிறார்கள். ஆதலினாலே விவசாயக் கடனாக இருந்தாலும் சரி, அல்லது பகுதி போன்றதாக இருந்தாலும் சரி இன்னும் இரண்டு மூன்று வருஷத்திற்கு வசூல் செய்யக்கூடாதென்று, சட்டபூர்வமாக ஏதாவது ஏற்பாடு செய்தாக வேண்டும். இப்பொழுதும் கூட எனக்குத் தெரியும். மூவாயிரம், நாலாயிரம் பொறுமான வீடுகளையெல்லாம் மடத்தைச் சேர்ந்தவர்கள், கோயிலைச் சேர்ந்தவர்கள் விவசாயிகள் பகுதி கொடுக்கவில்லையென்பதற்காக கோர்ட் அட்டாச்மெண்டுக்குக் கொண்டுவந்து ஜப்தி செய்கிறார்கள். அதை உடனடியாகத் தடுக்கவேண்டும். 5-50 p.m.

"மேலும் ஆங்காங்கே ஜில்லா போர்டு பள்ளிக்கூடமாக இருந்தாலும் சரி, முனிசிபாலிட்டிகளாக இருந்தாலும் சரி, விழுந்த கட்டிடங்களையெல்லாம் சர்க்கார் தாங்களே கட்டித்தர ஏற்பாடு செய்யவேண்டுமென்பதாக நான் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். அந்த புயலிலே சிக்குண்டவர்களுக்கு எல்லாம் நிவாரணம் அளிக்க கலைஞர்கள் கொண்டதோர் கோஷ்டி நிதி திரட்டுகிறது. செல்வாக்குள்ளவர்கள் எல்லாம் வேலை செய்கிறார்கள். விவசாய மந்திரி அவர்களும் முதல் மந்திரி அவர்களும் அங்கே போகப்போகிறார்கள். அவர் களும் கூட ஒரு விஷயத்தை குறிப்பாகக் கவனிக்கவேண்டும். ஏராளமான மரங்கள் விழுந்து போயிருக்கின்றன. அவைகளை மறுபடியும் நிமிர்த்தி வைத்து உயிர்ப்பிக்க முடியுமா என்று பார்க்கவேண்டும். கிட்டத்தட்ட 60, 40 வயதான மரங்களைஅப்படியே பெயர்த்து அப்பால் தள்ளிவைத்து உயிர்ப் பிக்கிறார்கள் சில இடங்களில். அதைப்போலவே இந்த இடங்களிலும் மரங் களை அப்படியே தூக்கி வைத்து அவைகள் அழிந்து போகாமல் காப்பாற்ற முடியுமா என்பதைப் பார்க்கவேண்டும். விவசாய மந்திரி அவர்கள் விவ சாய நிபுணர்களின் உதவியைக்கொண்டு இத்துறையில் முயன்று பார்க்க வேண்டுமென்பதாக நான் கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

"நிவாரண வேலைகளை உடனடியாக ஆரம்பிக்கவேண்டும். துன்பப்படு வோர்களுக்கும், வீடு இழந்தவர்களுக்கும் உடனடியாக தக்க ஏற்பாட்டைச் செய்து அவர்களைக் காப்பாற்றவேண்டும். அந்தத் தொகுதிக்கு அந்தந்த பிரதேசங்களிலுள்ள அதிகாரிகளை அனுப்பி எங்கங்கே எந்தந்த வித மான உதவியைச் செய்யவேண்டுமென்று நிர்ணயித்துக் கொண்டு பஞ்ச நிவாரண வேலையை உடனடியாக ஆரம்பிக்க வேண்டுமென்பதாக நான் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்."

* SRI K. R. SAMBANDAM :—" Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very glad to note that after all the Government has realized the extent of the damage caused by the cyclone in Tanjore and Tiruchirappalli districts. Even on the very first day myself and hon. Member, Sri S. Swayamprakasam, pointed out how Tanjore and Tiruchirappalli districts had been affected. Sir, when there was distress in Andhra and other areas either on account of cyclones or famine, we gave a large amount of money. Even as late as last year we collected in Mayuram fifteen thousand rupees for the Andhra Cyclone Relief Fund but now I am very sorry to see that most of the hon. Members from Tamil districts are not in the House and most of the Andhra Members have also gone out. Coming to the question of relief to those affected by the cyclone, I do not think the Government will be in a position to do anything substantial for the villagers especially the Harijans and the farmers who work in the fields in the coastal areas of Tanjore. Where the sea water has inundated the lands the Government must automatically give kist remission and the farmers must be given at least Rs. 50 in order to enable them to build their huts. Otherwise it will be very difficult for them to get on. There is also no work in the villages now for them to eke out their livelihood and the Government should therefore utilize this labour force that is available to construct roads which are very badly required for communication between the different villages. The trees which had been uprooted by the cyclone are still lying on the roads and the poor villagers affected by the cyclone may be ordered to take them. If such an order had been given most of the roads would have been cleared by this time.

" Another point which I would like to mention is that most of the fair price shops have been closed. I do not know why the Government are saying that they are not able to supply the fair price shops when they have got enough stocks of foodgrains. I think the urgent need here is to open a number of fair price shops and stock them with enough foodgrains. (At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.) In the coastal areas most of the huts of the fishermen have been washed away by the flooding sea water and they are now helpless. These fishermen must be given money not only to rebuild their huts but also sufficient money to buy nets and catamarans."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member's time is over."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member who spoke last in this discussion on the cyclone havoc in Tanjore district said that the Andhra Members are not present. I submit, Sir, that there are more Andhra Members present here than others and the Andhras are taking as much interest as the others."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member did not say that the Andhra Members were not present."

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Sri T. VISWANATHAM :—" I am sorry, Sir, if I have not heard him properly."

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The hon. Member said that Andhras should be generous in their contribution."

* Sri K. VINAYAKAM :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, for over two centuries the Madras State, excepting a few districts in the North and Tanjore which is supposed to be the granary of the South, has been deficit as regards food-supply. We have been suffering due to inadequate supply of food. Now, God has been very unkind to us because when we are in the midst of a shortage of foodstuffs, the granary of the South—Tanjore district—has been affected by the cyclone and much havoc has been wrought. Sir, there can be no two opinions as to the extent of calamity which the cyclone has caused in the two districts of Tanjore and Tiruchirappalli. I am afraid, Sir, even this Assembly looks as if it has also been affected by the cyclone. I do not see many hon. Members present in the House. This is the type of interest we are evincing in such an important matter."

Mr. SPEAKER :—" Having seen this, it is better the hon. Member closes his speech."

* Sri K. VINAYAKAM :—" I know, Sir, there are a few hon. Members who are waiting to be called by you and also a few Hon. Ministers because they could not do anything else."

Mr. SPEAKER :—" Let the hon. Member come to the subject under discussion."

* Sri K. VINAYAKAM :—" I was saying that that was the type of interest that we were evincing for the cyclone-affected areas. The point which I am trying to drive at is that we are only paying lip sympathy for the people that have been affected. The Hon. the Chief Minister was good enough to issue a statement wherein he says that the Collectors of these two districts have been given complete discretion in the matter of the relief to be afforded to the victims. I do not know whether he has removed 6 p.m. the ceiling limit, for after all the Collector of a district is empowered to spend about two or three thousand rupees in his own discretion for relief of such distress. Unless we put more money into their hands there is no use in issuing a statement that full discretion is given to them. Sir, I want the Government to spend as much as possible to relieve the distress of the poor. By way of a good gesture, I may inform hon. Members of this House, that even the Corporation of Madras, in response to the statement made by the Hon. the Chief Minister, contributed, Rs. 5,000 immediately and placed that amount at the disposal of the Government to be distributed as they liked, to the victims of these areas. I am not now going to narrate the havoc that has been caused in that particular district, but I want only to give sufficient encouragement to the Government from our side so that they may be quick in taking action.

" Sir, I am a faddist of Tiruvalluvar and I would like to quote only one of his stanzas and end my speech. He says in one of his stanzas :

' தூங்காமை கல்வி துணிவுடைமை இம்மூன்றும்
நீங்கா நிலனாள் பவற்கு. '

What Tiruvalluvar means in this stanza is that for the rulers of the State there must be three qualities and if I find those three qualities in the administrators of our country, I would be more than satisfied that they are discharging their duty by the people. The rulers of the earth must be endowed with sleepless vigilance. Sir, what is the vigilance we have displayed? We are here sitting, and as some of the members were pointing out, there was not even one Minister who is in a position to go to the distressed areas to assess the real conditions there."

MR. SPEAKER :—" To-day they are leaving Madras."

* SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Most of the hon. Members are perhaps homesick also and that is why most of them have already left. I wanted to say, Sir . . ."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member's time is over. I want to finish the debate at 6-30 p.m."

* SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" I think, I have altogether five minutes and I can use those five minutes to the fullest extent.

" Lastly, Sir, the rulers must possess indomitable will for taking quick decisions. That is what Tiruvalluvar says. Therefore, Sir, I want the Government not to wait for the decision of the House and what the House will say. I say the entire House feels with you in this matter and I want you to give as much help as possible to the victims, instead of merely passing a resolution which only displays our lip sympathy in this House."

* SRI C. KANDASAMI:—" கனம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, கோரப்புயலினால் இன்றைய தினம் தஞ்சை, திருச்சி ஜில்லாவைச்சேர்ந்த 50 லக்ஷம் மக்களுடைய வாழ்க்கையானது இன்றைய தினம் துர்ப்பாக்கியமான நிலைமைக்கு வந்திருக்கிறது. சொல்லப்போனால், இன்று அந்த இரண்டு ஜில்லாவினுடைய பொருளாதார அடிப்படையே குலுங்கும்படியான அளவுக்கு இந்தப் புயல் கடுமையான சேதத்தை விளைவித்திருக்கிறது. அரசாங்கம் இங்கே சபையிலும் சரி, வெளியே விடுத்த அறிக்கையிலும் சரி, போதுமான நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கப்படும் என்று உத்தரவாதம் அளித்திருப்பதைப்பற்றி உண்மையாகவே சந்தோஷப்படுகிறோம்.

" அதே சந்தர்ப்பத்தில் இதுவரையில் என்ன நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது என்பதைப்பற்றி இன்னும் எங்களுக்கு ஒன்றும் தெரியவில்லை. பத்திரிகைகளைப் பார்த்தும் புரிந்துகொள்ள முடியவில்லை. அதைப்பற்றி ஒட்டுமொத்தமாகப் பேசப்படுகிறதே தவிர, இதுவரையில் எந்தவிதமான நிவாரண நடவடிக்கையும் எடுத்துக்கொண்டதாகத் தெரியவில்லை, என்பதை சர்க்காரின் கவனத்திற்குக் கொண்டுவர விரும்புகிறேன்.

" சமீபத்திலே, எங்களுடைய தோழர்களில் இரண்டு எம்.எல்.ஏக்களை அங்குள்ள நிலைமையைத் தெரிந்துவர அனுப்பியிருந்தோம். அவர்களும் சென்று வந்திருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்கள் கொடுத்திருக்கிற விவரங்களை வைத்துக்கொண்டு பார்க்கும்போது, சேதம் குறிப்பிடுவதை விட பல மடங்கு

12th December 1952] [Sri C. Kandasami]

அதிகமாக இருக்கும் என்று நன்றாகத் தெரிகிறது. அதைப்பற்றி இங்கே விவரிக்க விரும்பவில்லை. அதே சந்தர்ப்பத்தில் கிராமப் புரங்களில் நிவாரரணம் இன்னும் அளிக்கப்படவில்லை. அங்குள்ள நிலைமை எந்த விதத்திலும் மாறவில்லை. எந்த நடவடிக்கையும் அங்கே எடுக்கப்படவில்லை என்று அவர்கள் திட்டமாகக் கூறுகிறார்கள், என்று நான் கனம் பிரதம மந்திரி அவர்களுடைய கவனத்திற்குக் கொண்டுவர விரும்புகின்றேன். ஒருக்கால் நகர்ப் புரங்களிலும், பஸ் செல்லும்படியான பாதைகளிலும், ரயில் போகும் பாதைகளிலும் ஏற்பட்ட இடஞ்சல்களைப் போக்குவதற்கான காரியங்கள் ஏதாவது நடந்துகொண்டிருக்கலாம். ஆனால், திருத்துறைப்பூண்டி தாலூகா, நாகை, வேதாரண்யம் இன்னும் இதுபோன்ற இடங்களில் எனக்கு வந்திருக்கின்ற செய்தி பிரகாரம் இன்னும் எந்த நிவாரணமும் போய்ச்சேரவில்லை. மக்கள் அதிகமான கஷ்டமடைந்துக் கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். அதே சந்தர்ப்பத்தில் சாமான்களின் விலை ஒன்றுக்குப் பல மடங்கு அதிகமாயிருக்கின்றது. உதாரணமாக மண்ணெண்ணெயின் விலை புட்டி 12 அணா என்றும், உப்பு ஒரு படி 4 அணா என்றும் விற்கப்படுகிறது என்று தகவல் வந்திருக்கிறது. எதற்கு இதையெல்லாம் குறிப்பிடுகிறேனென்றால் இன்று இருக்கக்கூடிய நிலைமையை உணர்ந்து, அதற்குத் தக்க தீவிர நடவடிக்கை மேற்கொண்டாலொழிய அந்தப் பிரதேசத்தில் புயலினால் ஏற்பட்ட நஷ்டம் ஒருபக்கம், அதற்கு மேலாக இன்றைய தினம் சூழ்நிலையைப் பயன்படுத்திக் கொண்டு கொள்ளை லாபம் அடிக்க வேண்டிய மனோபாவமுள்ள வியாபாரிகள் எவ்வளவு கேவலமான நிலைமையை ஏற்படுத்திக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள் என்பதை நான் அரசாங்கத்திற்கு எடுத்துக்காட்ட விரும்புகிறேன். ஆகவே, சர்க்கார் உடனடியாக நடவடிக்கை எடுத்துக் கொள்ளவேண்டும்.

" தஞ்சை ஜில்லாவில் இன்று இருக்கக்கூடிய நிலைமையை அனுசரித்து நீண்ட கால உதவி அளிக்கப்படும் என்று இன்றைய தினம் சொல்லப்படவேண்டும். தஞ்சை ஜில்லா மிகக் கேந்திரமான ஒரு ஜில்லாவாகும். தமிழ் நாட்டுக்கு உணவுக் களஞ்சியம் என்று அது புகழப்படுகிறது. ஆனால், இன்று அந்த ஜில்லாவின் பொருளாதார அடிப்படை பாதிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது என்று சொல்லும்போது, அதுவும் குறிப்பாக 25 ஆயிரம் ஏகர் நெற்பயிர் பாழாகிவிட்டது, பல இடங்களிலும் பயிர்கள் கசக்கப்பட்டுவிட்டன, சம்பா அறுவடை வெகுவாகப் பாதிக்கப்பட்டுவிட்டது என்று நிலைமையைக் கண்டறிந்தவர்கள் சொல்வதையும், பத்திரிகையில் வரும் செய்திகளையும் பார்க்கும்போது, பல வருஷங்களுக்கு தஞ்சை ஜில்லா விவசாயம் சீர்திருந்தும் என்று சொல்ல முடியாமல் இருக்கிறது. தஞ்சை ஜில்லாவில் விவசாயம் செழிக்கவேண்டுமானால், அதற்குத்தக்க நடவடிக்கையும், குறிப்பாக நீண்டகால நடவடிக்கையை சர்க்கார் எடுக்கவேண்டும். பஞ்சப்பிரதேசங்களில் எந்தவிதமான நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கப்படுகின்றதோ அதைப்போலவே தஞ்சை ஜில்லாவிலும் வேண்டியதைச் செய்யவேண்டும். நடுத்தர மக்களுடைய வாழ்க்கையும், ஹரிஜனங்கள் போன்ற விவசாயத் தொழிலாளர்களுடைய வாழ்க்கையும் புனருத்தாரணம் செய்யப்படவேண்டும். அதற்கான நீண்டகால திட்டத்தை ஆரம்பிக்க வேண்டுமென்று இந்த சந்தர்ப்பத்தில் தெரிவித்துக்கொள்ள விரும்புகிறேன்.

" இன்றையதினம் மாகாணத்தில் பல இடங்களிலும் இருக்கக்கூடிய எல்லா ஜனப் பிரதிநிதிகளும் ஜன சங்கங்களும் இதில் ஒத்துழைக்கவேண்டும். தஞ்சை, திருச்சி ஜில்லாக்களில் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கின்ற நஷ்டத்தை இந்த மாகாணம் முழுவதற்கும் ஏற்பட்ட நஷ்டமாகக் கருதி, எல்லா இடங்களிலிருந்தும் போதுமான நிவாரண உதவியை அளிக்கவேண்டும். பல இடங்களிலிருந்தும் வரக்கூடிய நிவாரண உதவியைக்கொண்டு ஓரளவு தஞ்சை ஜில்லாவிலுள்ள கஷ்டத்தைப்போக்க முயற்சி செய்யலாம். அங்குள்ள மக்களுக்கு அது ஓரளவு ஆறுதலாக இருக்கும். அதையும் சர்க்கார் ஞாபகத்தில் வைத்துக்கொண்டு, அரசாங்கத்தில் இருக்கக்கூடிய பணத்தில் ஒரு அளவு தஞ்சை ஜில்லாவின் புனருத்தாரணத்திற்குச் செலவிடவேண்டும், அவர்களுடைய மகத்தான கஷ்டத்தை ஈடுகட்டிக்கொள்வதற்கு செலவழிக்கத்தயாராய் இருக்கவேண்டும்.

" இன்னும் பூரணமான விவரங்கள் கிடைக்கவில்லை. சமீபத்தில் பிரதம மந்திரி அவர்கள் அங்கு வரப்போகிறார்கள். இன்னும் பல காங்கிரஸ் தலைவர்களும் சென்றிருக்கிறார்கள். நாங்களும் சீக்கிரம் அங்குசென்று ஜில்லாவில் ஒவ்வொரு இடமாகப் பார்க்கப் போகிறோம். எல்லோரும் சேர்ந்து அங்கு ஏற்பட்டிருக்கக்கூடிய கஷ்ட நஷ்டங்களை நேரில் தெரிந்து, தஞ்சை ஜில்லாவை இன்று இருக்கக்கூடிய கஷ்டத்திலிருந்து மீட்கவேண்டும். ஆகவே, எல்லா தரப்பினரும் ஒட்டுமொத்தமாக ஒரு முடிவுக்கு வந்து, தஞ்சை ஜில்லாவின் புனருத்தாரணத்திற்கான காரியங்களைச் செய்வதற்கு எல்லோரும் ஒத்துழைக்கவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொண்டு, சர்க்காரும் இதில் தீவிர கவனம் செலுத்த வேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொண்டு என்னுடைய பிரசங்கத்தை முடித்துக் கொள்ளுகிறேன். "

JANAB MAHOMED SALIH MARAIKAYAR :—" கனம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, மற்ற நண்பர்கள் எல்லோரும் தஞ்சை ஜில்லாவின் புயல் சேதத்தைப் பற்றி பேசிவிட்டார்கள். என்னைப் பொருத்தமட்டில் குறிப்பாக பாசன வசதி அற்ற தஞ்சை ஜில்லா அரந்தாங்கி தாலுகாவைப்பற்றி பேச முன்வந்திருக்கிறேன். மனித வாழ்க்கைக்கு அவசியமானதும் முக்யத்துவமானதுமான உணவு வசதி அற்ற அத்தாலுகாவில் பல்லாண்டுகளாக பருவ மழை தவறி விவசாயமே பாழ் அடைந்து ஜனங்கள் குடிக்க கஞ்சி அற்று, குண்டிக்குக் கட்ட துணி அற்று சீர்கேடு அடைந்திருக்கும் இந்நிலையில் துரதிர்ஷ்டவசமாக இந்த புயலானது அந்த அரந்தாங்கி தாலூகாவில் பெரும் படியாக தாக்கி இருக்கிறது. இத்தாலூகா பெரும்பாலும் கடற் கரையை அடுத்து இருப்பதால் கடற் கரையிலுள்ள தென்னைமரங்களெல்லாம், சாய்ந்துவிட்டன. ஏழை மீன் பிடிக்காரர்கள் சொத்துக்கு பெருத்த நஷ்டம் ஏற்பட்டு இப்பொழுது குடியிருக்க குடிசையின்றி தவிக்கிறார்கள். இந்நிலையில் என்ன செய்வதென்று புரியாமல் இருக்கிறது. கட்டுமரம் என்று சொல்லக்கூடிய மீன் பிடிக்க உதவக் கூடிய மரங்களெல்லாம் அடிபட்டுப் போய்விட்டன, அந்த மரங்களை எங்கிருந்து சப்ளை செய்யமுடியும்? அதற்கு வேண்டிய முயற்சி செய்யவேண்டும் என்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். இப்பொழுது அங்கு இருக்கும் நிலைமையை கனம் ரெவினியூ மந்திரி அவர்கள் நேரில் சென்று பார்க்க வேண்டும் என்று நான் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். மற்ற இடங்களுக்குக் கொடுக்கும் உதவியைவிட இந்த தாலூகாவிற்கு அதிகமாகக் கொடுத்து போதிய ஒத்தாசை செய்யவேண்டும் என்பது எனது விருப்பம் என்பதை தெரிவித்துக்கொண்டு நான் இத்துடன் முடித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்."

6–10 p.m. * SRI T. C. NARAYANA NAMBIAR :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I take this opportunity to express the sympathy of the people of Malabar towards the people of Tanjore and Tiruchirappalli and other areas which were affected by the recent cyclone. I am not expressing mere lip sympathy, but I am prepared to give my humble contribution towards the relief fund and I am also sure that the poor peasantry of Malabar and also the peasant women of Malabar will come forward at least with a handful of rice to help the people who are suffering if required. In this connexion, I hope and trust that my colleagues, the Members of the Legislative Assembly, will also come forward with their humble contribution for this glorious purpose. With these few words, I finish my speech."

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" Sir, as a person coming from the Chingleput district which has not been affected by the cyclone, I wish to extend my sincere sympathies to the persons who have been afflicted by this cyclone. We must thank Providence that cyclone has not visited Madras even though it started in Madras.

12th December 1952] [Sri S. Deivasigamany]

Sir, we shall all co-operate with the Government in relieving the distress of those persons who have been afflicted by the recent cyclone.''

Sri T. NAGI REDDI :—'' అధ్యక్షా, ఈ దినము ఇక్కడ తీసుకొనివచ్చినటువంటి ఈ తీర్మాన సందర్భములో నేను ఆంధ్ర దేశము తరపున ఇక్కడ చేరినటువంటి తమిళ మిత్రులందరికి మా సానుభూతిని తెలుపుచున్నాను. ఇప్పుడుకూడ సానుభూతి ప్రదర్శనములు చాలా జరుగుచున్నవి. గనుక ఈ సానుభూతితో అవసరము లేదేమోనని అనుకోవచ్చును. కాని మేము సానుభూతిని మాత్రమే తెలుపుచుండుట లేదు. ఇంతకుముందు ఆంధ్ర దేశమునకు ఇటువంటి దుస్థితి వచ్చినప్పుడు తమిళులు చేసినటువంటి సహాయాన్ని మేము మరచిపోలేము. రాయలసీమ కరువుకాటకాలకు గురిఅయినప్పుడు మీరందరు మాకు సహాయముచేసి తోడ్పడినమాట నిజమే. అందుచేత ఇప్పుడు ఆంధ్ర దేశమునుంచికూడ మీరు అనుకొన్నంత కాకపోయిన, తగినంత మాత్రాన సహాయము మీకు తప్పక లభిస్తుందని నేను ఆశిస్తున్నాను. ఈ సందర్భములో మనము ఎన్నో సంవత్సరాలనుంచిగూడ పెద్దపెద్ద తుపాను వచ్చినటువంటి సందర్భములో కానివ్వండి, లేక బీహారులో **earthquake** వచ్చినటువంటి సందర్భములో గానివ్వండి, ఇటువంటి అన్ని సందర్భాలలోను మన జాతీయ ఉద్యమము ఎంతో ఎక్కువగా తోడ్పడినటువంటి మన సాంప్రదాయాలున్నాయి. అటువంటి సాంప్రదాయాల ఫలితంగా మనము ఒక బ్రహ్మాండమైన ఇటువంటి విపత్తును ఎదుర్కొనడానికి ధృఢమైనటువంటి నిశ్చయముతో ముందుకురాగలుగుతున్నాము. అంతేకాకుండా ప్రభుత్వము, ప్రజలు ఒకరితో ఒకరు సహకరించినట్లయితే, ఇటువంటి పరిస్థితుల నెదుర్కొనగలమని తెలుసుకొనగలిగాము. ఈ విషయములో ప్రభుత్వము తప్పకుండా అందరి తోడ్పాటును స్వీకరిస్తుందని మిగతావారందరుకూడ రాజకీయాల ప్రసక్తిలేకుండా తోడ్పడగలరని ఆశిస్తున్నాను. కమ్యూనిస్టు పార్టీకి సంబంధించినంతవరకు ఈ సందర్భములో రాజకీయాల ప్రసక్తిలేకుండా ప్రభుత్వానికి తాముచేయదలచుకొన్న కార్యక్రమము జయప్రదమవడానికి అంత సహాయము ఇస్తుందని నేను హామీ ఇవ్వగలను. ఇది ప్రజలయొక్క కష్టనష్టాలకు సంబంధించినటువంటిది గనుకను ఇందులో ఏలాటి జాతివిబేధాలనేటటువంటి అంశములేదు గనుకను, నేను ఇదివరకు చెప్పినట్లుగా ఈ సందర్భములో రాజకీయాల ప్రసక్తిలేకుండా అందరు ఐకమత్యముతో తోడ్పడగలరని ఆశిస్తున్నాను.''

* **Sri M. MARIMUTHU**:—'' தலைவர் அவர்களே, இப்பொழுது புயல் காற்றினால் ஏற்பட்ட சேதத்தைப் பற்றி எல்லா அங்கத்தினர்களும் சொல்லிவிட்டார்கள். 30-ந்தேதியிலிருந்து 2-ந்தேதி வரையில் காரைக்குடி, திருப்பத்தூர், புதுக்கோட்டை, திருச்சி, தஞ்சை, இடங்களில் யான் சுற்றி பட்டுக்கோட்டை வந்துசேர்ந்ததும் கோரமாக புயல் காற்று அடித்ததின் காரணமாக மரங்கள் எல்லாம் விழுந்து விட்டன. மாடுகள் எல்லாம் இறந்து விட்டன. மனிதர்கள் இறந்திருக்கிறார்கள். நிலங்கள் எல்லாம் பாழாகிவிட்டன. அதோடு குறிப்பாக இன்றைய தினம் ஹரிஜன மக்கள் பெரும்பாலோர் வீடுகள் இழந்து தவித்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். நமது மதிப்புற்குறிய முதல் மந்திரி ராஜாஜி அவர்களும், ரெவின்யூ மந்திரி அவர்களும் அந்தப்பிரதேசங்களில் சுற்றுப் பிரயாணம் செய்கையில் அந்த ஜில்லாக்களிலுள்ள ஏழை மக்களுக்கு, ஏழை ஹரிஜன விவசாய மக்களுக்குப் போதுமான வீட்டு வசதியை உடனடியாகச் செய்து கொடுக்கும்படியாக கவனித்துக் கொள்ள வேண்டும். அப்படியே அவர்களும் செய்வார்கள் என்றும் நம்புகிறேன்.

'' அடுத்தபடியாக அவர்களுக்கு இன்றையதினம் உண்ண உணவில்லை. உடுக்க உடையில்லை. இதையெல்லாம் கவனித்து அவர்களுக்கு வேண்டிய

எல்லாவசதிகளையும் செய்து கொடுக்கவேண்டும். உடனடியாக அவர்களுடைய கஷ்டங்களையெல்லாம், ஏழைவிவசாய ஹரிஜன மக்களின் கஷ்டங்களையெல்லாம் போக்க நடவடிக்கை எடுக்க வேண்டுமென்பதாகக் கேட்டுக்கொண்டு என் பேச்சை முடித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்."

*Sri IJARI SIRASAPPA :—"ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ ಮಹಾಶಯರೆ, ಮದ್ರಾಸು ಪ್ರಾಂತದ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಭಾಷೆಗಳಲ್ಲೊಂದಾದ, ಕನ್ನಡದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತಾಡಬೇಕೆಂದು ಹಂಬಲ ವಿತ್ತು, ಕಾರಣ ಈ ದಿವಸ ಕನ್ನಡದಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಮಾತಾಡುತ್ತಿರುವೆನು.

"ನಮ್ಮ ಪ್ರಾಂತದ, ತಂಜಾವೂರು ಮುಂತಾದ ಭಾಗಗಳಲ್ಲಿ, ಮೊನ್ನೆ ಬೀಸಿದ ಬಿರುಗಾಳಿಯಿಂದಾದ ಅನಾಹುತದಿಂದ ಅಲ್ಲಿಯ ಜನರು ಬಹಳ ಸಂಕಷ್ಟಕ್ಕೊಳಗಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಅವರ ಈ ಕಷ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿ ನಾನು ಕನ್ನಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಾದ, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ ಮತ್ತು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಕನ್ನಡದ ಜನರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಸಂತಾಪವನ್ನು ಸೂಚಿಸ ಬಯಸುತ್ತೇನೆ. ಅದರಂತೆಯೇ ಆಂಧ್ರ, ತಮಿಳು ಮತ್ತು ಮಲಯಾಳದ ಸಹೋದರರೂ ಸಹ ತಮ್ಮ ಸಂತಾಪವನ್ನು ಸೂಚಿಸಿ, ಸಹಕಾರದ ಭರವಸೆಯನ್ನೂ ಕೊಟ್ಟಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

"ನಮ್ಮ ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ, ಎಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಯಾವುದೇ ಅನಾಹುತವು ಜರುಗಿದರೂ, ಜಾತಿ, ಪಂಗಡ, ಭಾಷೆಗಳ ಭೇದಭಾವವಿಲ್ಲದಂತೆ, ನಾವು ಕಷ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾಲುಗಾರರಾಗಬೇಕು. ಮತ್ತು ಶಕ್ತಿ ಮೀರಿ ಕಷ್ಟ ನಿವಾರಣೆಗೆ ಸಹಕಾರ ನೀಡಬೇಕು.

"ಆದುದರಿಂದ, ಕನ್ನಡ ಜನತೆಯ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಮತ್ತೊಮ್ಮೆ ಸಂತಾಪ ಮತ್ತು ಸಹಾನುಭೂತಿಯನ್ನು ತೋರಿಸಿ, ನಮ್ಮ ಶಕ್ತಿಮೀರಿ, ಅವರಿಗೆ ನೆರವಿಗಾಗಿ ಸಹಕರಿಸುತ್ತೇವೆಂದು ಭರವಸೆ ನೀಡುತ್ತೇನೆ."

Sri P. RAMAMURTHI :—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are to-day in the midst of discussing a subject which brings to us very poignant memories. One of the biggest of tragedies happened about 10 days ago and the intensity of this severe cyclone need not now once again be gone into. In fact, it is the severest cyclone that has ever raged in living memory. Even the last cyclone that occurred in Bombay had not such a high velocity, whereas this cyclone which raged and destroyed the two districts of Tanjore and Tiruchirappalli had a velocity of about 80 miles per hour which is something unprecedented in living memory. We could therefore realize the tremendous havoc that would have been caused by it. We need not once again go into the stories, very moving stories, that have been given to us. Even the reports that are trickling through Government reports tell harrowing tales of the havoc. It is very good on the part of all hon. Members belonging to various districts, and belonging to various linguistic areas to have expressed their deepest sympathy on behalf of the people affected and we know that the people of the entire State were moved beyond measure when they read the reports in the newspapers about the terrific havoc caused to these two districts by the cyclone.

6-20 p.m. "Naturally sympathy is evoked at the terrible tragedy and an expression of that sympathy was witnessed yesterday when the artists of Tamilnad and Andhradesa banded themselves together, went round the streets of Madras and collected donations in cash and kind. I am sure that their efforts will be crowned with success. I am also sure that non-official agencies from other sectors of our society will collect as much funds for relief as possible.

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Primarily it is the Government that must come forward with relief measures. However great the non-official efforts might be, they can only supplement the primary efforts made by the Government. Unfortunately that is the position in which we are placed to-day.

" In this connexion, I must say that I was a little disappointed when we read in the newspapers that the Government of India had not at all moved in the matter. I know that the Prime Minister has contributed Rs. 30,000 from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. But what is this sum of Rs. 30,000 compared to the terrible havoc that has been caused? The Government of India need not stand on formalities, they need not wait for a formal request from the Government of Madras. They know the financial position of the Government of Madras who have been approaching them again and again for loans and other forms of help for the relief of distress in famine areas. When they heard of the terrible tragedy and the consequent havoc, they of their own volition and without waiting for a request should have given an adequate amount—one crore of rupees at least—for relief work. I do hope that they will wake up hereafter at least and do their duty, irrespective of whether the Government of Madras make an appeal or not. It is certainly necessary for the Madras Government to make an appeal and not stand on formalities or consider it *infra dig*. There may be a number of differences between the Madras Government and the Central Government. But this is a problem of human suffering and it has no relation to those quarrels with the Government of India. The Madras Government must bring to bear sufficient pressure on the Central Government so that the people of these two districts may get succour.

" Sir, let me sum up the suggestions made by the Members on this side of the House. First of all, I would say that the greatest and most urgent need of the people of the area is the rebuilding of houses and huts. The Government themselves have stated in their report that more than 180,000 houses and huts were destroyed. Building materials are not available in the district, and the most urgent need is the procurement and supply of building materials. The Government should requisition them from Malabar and Coimbatore districts, taking powers for requisition if necessary, write to the Government of India to make sufficient number of waggons available, and rush them to the two districts. Even the roofs of the houses of middle class families have been blown off. As a result of scarcity conditions, tiles have become extremely costly. It is necessary that the Government should requisition the tiles produced in the tile factories of Malabar and Mangalore, stock them in depots in the affected districts and sell them at a reasonable price. These are the elementary things that the Government should do. The cyclone-affected area is the area which supplies food to the entire State and therefore I have got to make a special plea on behalf of the people there. If these people do

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not have homes to live in and clothes to wear, naturally production is going to suffer tremendously. In order to see that agricultural operations take place properly, the clothing requirements of at least the poorer sections of the people must be met immediately. For the people who have lost all their belongings, immediate relief should be provided by running gruel centres for a short period.

"Then I would like to point out that tremendous havoc has been caused to the plantain and coconut topes. These have been the main crops affected by the recent cyclone. It may be that the topes may belong to big landlords. But let us not forget that they have leased them out for cash rent generally. The tenants will not be able to pay the cash rent at all, however much they may try. Therefore it is absolutely necessary for the Government to bring forward a Bill cancelling all the rents payable by tenants to the owners of plantain and coconut topes. It is not enough to do this much alone. Since the tenants have lost all their property, loans must be made available to enable them to start agriculture next year. Most of the tenants may not be eligible for loan if the rules governing the grant of takkavi loans are followed. No security of land should be insisted upon. Personal security should be accepted provided the authorities are satisfied that the person concerned is cultivating land. If loans on these terms are not granted, agriculture will suffer tremendously.

"Then, the problem of cattle has been touched upon. Cattle-fodder is an urgent need and let us not forget that aspect. Fodder has got to be rushed to those two districts, if further destruction of cattle is to be prevented. When scarcity conditions were prevailing in Rayalaseema, a kind of grass growing in the Nallamalai forest was compressed and despatched to the needy areas. I do not know the technical details about it. Some such arrangement has got to be made to prevent loss of cattle and the consequent retardation of agricultural operations.

"Lastly, I would like to point out that the Government have got a very specific responsibility so far as the poorer section of the people are concerned. The Government should grant to their employees drawing a salary of Rs. 100 or Rs. 75 or whatever maximum they may fix a loan equivalent to one month's pay and recover it in twelve monthly instalments, the first instalment being recovered after three months. Such a step will go a long way to relieve distress. If the Government set the example and contact the municipal councils and the Railway Board for the grant of similar concession in respect of their employees, I think they will agree to follow suit. After all there is no loss, as the money is going to be recovered.

"These are the concrete suggestions. I want the Government to consider them, not in the usual way which takes a long time, but quickly and take decisions."

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* THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, I think, I should not allow a certain wrong impression, which was attempted to be created by the Leader of the Opposition, to go uncorrected. He said that there were quarrels between the Central Government and the Madras Government. I may state that there is no question of any quarrel between the two Governments. There may have been a difference of opinion in certain matters and that is inevitable. I may tell the Leader of the Opposition that the most cordial relations exist between the Madras Government and the Central Government. There is no question of our standing on prestige or the Central Government standing on prestige. I am sure that whatever help is necessary and whatever is possible will be done by the Central Government." 6-30 p.m.

* THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—"Sir, Member after Member got up and described the distress prevailing in the districts. Hon. Members wanted that relief measures should be forthcoming immediately. I entirely agree with them. But I do not agree with the remarks made by the hon. Member Mr. Kalyanasundaram. He said that the revenue officials were only going about without doing anything at once. I may tell him that even to repair the damages by ordinary storm, one has to devote one's entire attention. What can the poor revenue officials do to attend to damages caused by a terrific cyclone? They do take time. The revenue officials do not have a magic wand to go about and say in places where huts had been destroyed 'let huts rise in this place.' It is not possible. We have to collect the necessary materials. One hon. Member representing Vikravandi said that bamboo and thatch must be brought from Malabar. It is not necessary to bring them from Malabar. They are available in Tanjore district itself. It has only to be moved from one part to another. It takes time to build, but it is easy to destroy. It is not as if the officials are indifferent. In fact I may tell the hon. Member that the revenue officials in both the districts had been very prompt, and at considerable inconvenience and discomfort, they have been doing meritorious work. Adverse remarks about their work may tend to damp their enthusiasm. They may think 'in spite of working like this, people say we have not been working hard; so let us do normal work'. Therefore, I wish that such remarks are not made.

"I am glad that hon. Members representing Tanjore and Tiruchirappalli districts were alert enough to ventilate their grievances about their respective constituencies. It is only right they did so, and I may assure them that I will not stand in the way of an impression going round that it is at their instance and on their earnest representations, the Government had been spurred on to greater activity. I do not mind that impression going round. The hon. the Leader of the Opposition mentioned that agriculture should be restarted almost afresh, and agriculture had been very greatly dislocated. I agree with him. Everything will be done to re-start agriculture. Government will also consider the granting of loans and other facilities. Our help, of course, is limited by our

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finances. We will do our very best. I am glad that all sections of the House—Andhra, Malabar and Karnataka—vied with one another in offering their co-operation and helping hand in the matter of relieving the great distress that has overtaken Tanjore and Tiruchirappalli districts. We have been praying for rains. Rains came, but they came along with the cyclone which caused great distress in these two districts. However, as men of a great nation, we have to face the situation stoically and relieve the distress, and make the lot of the people bearable. This is all I have got to say, Sir."

Sri M. KALYANASUNDARAM :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue created an impression that I tried to attack the revenue officials for their failure. My intention is not to attack them. I am only trying to strengthen their hands."

Mr. SPEAKER :—" I am now going to put the amendments to the vote of the House."

Sri N. SIVARAJ :—" Sir, I withdraw my amendment."

The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn.

Sri R. KRISHNAN :—" Sir, I press my amendment."

Mr. SPEAKER :—" The question is—

' *Add* the following at the end :—

" to take up immediate relief work." ' "

The amendment was lost.

Sri K. P. GOPALAN :—" Sir, I withdraw my amendment."

The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn.

Sri G. C. KONDAYYA :—" Sir, there is the damage caused by the flood in Nellore district, and this has appeared in the press. The Government also must have been informed about this. Some bridges have collapsed. Some hundreds of houses were washed away. It is only to bring this matter to the notice of the Government that I moved my amendment. If they are ready to get the reports . . ."

Mr. SPEAKER :—" Then it is a conditional withdrawal."

Sri G. C. KONDAYYA :—" Sir, I am withdrawing my amendment."

The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn.

Sri D. SEETHARAMIAH :—" Sir, I withdraw my amendment."

The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn.

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MR. SPEAKER :—" I now put the original motion to the vote of the House. The question is—

' That the situation created in the Tanjore and Tiruchirappalli districts by the recent cyclone on the 30th November 1952, be taken into consideration.' "

The motion was carried.

MR. SPEAKER :—" The House will now adjourn *sine die*."

The House then adjourned.

TAMIL NADU LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS

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Mr. SPEAKER :—" I am now going to put the original motion to the vote of the House."

Sri P. RAMAMURTHI :—" Sir, I would like to have clarification on this point. The resolution before the House is, ' That the food situation in the State be taken into consideration '. That being the case, I don't think any vote is necessary on the resolution, as it stands in the present form."

Mr. SPEAKER :—" All motions must be put to the vote of the House. That is the procedure to be followed. The question is—

' That the food situation in the State be taken into consideration. ' "

The motion was carried.

IV.—MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL.

Mr. SPEAKER :—" I have to announce to the House that I have received the following message, dated the 11th December 1952, from the Hon. the Chairman, Madras Legislative Council :—

' I transmit a copy of the Madras Motor Vehicles (Taxation of Passengers and Goods) Bill, 1952 (L.A. Bill No. 21 of 1952), as agreed to by the Council without any recommendation and signed by me.' "

V.—STATEMENT *RE* THE KRISHNA ANICUT ENQUIRY COMMITTEE REPORT.

Mr. SPEAKER :—" Regarding the Krishna Anicut Enquiry Committee's report, the Hon. Minister for Public Works will make a statement and the debate on the same will be held in the next sitting."

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Sir, I think the idea is that the motion on the situation created by the cyclone is to be taken up first."

Mr. SPEAKER :—" The Hon. Minister for Public Works will now make a statement on the Krishna Anicut Enquiry Committee Report and it will be discussed in the next sitting of the House."

Sri T. VISWANATHAM :—" Sir, we are very anxious that the matter should be gone into even now. That is what we feel after reading the report and also the appendices, which I have had the advantage of looking into yesterday and to-day. I would rather like that the debate should go on to-day unless everybody agrees that it should be postponed."

Mr. SPEAKER :—" Yes, that is the agreement."

Sri T. VISWANATHAM :—" Then in that case it seems that unfortunately I am the only man to disagree on this point."

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MR. SPEAKER :—" Next time we will have a full-dress debate."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" I wish to make my position clear with regard to this matter. If the Hon. Public Works Minister makes a full statement with regard to all the points raised in the report and if the Hon. Leader of the House allows a full day's debate on the same at the next sitting, possibly we can agree. Otherwise, I would rather insist that the discussion on the report be taken up even to-day."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" With regard to the hon. Member's suggestion that a full day should be allotted for this purpose, I will talk the matter with him later and try to allot whatever time may be necessary."

SRI G. LATCHANNA :—" Sir, may I know when we are likely to meet again? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" We are going to adjourn *sine die* to-day. The House will probably meet some time by the end of January or the beginning of February."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I think we may meet by the third week of January, or the end of January. I am sorry I am not in a position to give the exact date now."

SRI M. HANUMANTHA RAO :—" అధ్యక్షా, నిన్న, కృష్ణానది ఆనకట్టు వ్యవహారంమీద debate ఉంటుందని వాగ్ధానం చేశారు. ఈ రోజున దానిని లేకుండా చేస్తున్నారు. ఇది చాలా తీవ్రమైన సమస్య కాబట్టి, యీరోజున రాత్రి 8 ఘంటలు అయినను debate ఉండాలని, నేను సూచన చేస్తున్నాను."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I have consulted the leader of the hon. Member's Party and he himself has agreed that the matter may be discussed at the next sitting. So I am not going to allow any debate on this matter."

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" Sir, I beg to move the motion that stands in my name . . ."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, I don't think it is necessary to move the motion. I think it is enough if the Hon. Minister makes a statement."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Whether the Hon. Minister moves the motion or makes a statement, it is immaterial. He can move the motion if he wants and we can have the discussion at the next sitting."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" The Hon. Minister may move the motion according to the original programme and we may have the discussion on the subject at the next sitting."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I have no objection. The Hon. Minister may move the motion if he wants and the discussion may take place at the next sitting."

4-30 p.m. * THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a statement with regard to the report made by the Krishna Anicut Enquiry Committee. It would be necessary for me to mention the circumstances in which the Government appointed the Committee for going into the question of the damage caused to the Krishna Anicut and also as to who, if any, were responsible for the breach that occurred. While constituting the Committee, the Government mentioned in the terms of reference that it might also go into the question whether the shutters that were there were being operated, and if they were not being properly operated, whether anyone was responsible for the defective operation of the shutters. To have a clear picture of the damage, Sir, I would like to submit that we should go back to the month of May 1952.

" The House will probably remember that there were unprecedented floods in the month of May 1952. The river Krishna rose unexpectedly to an unprecedented height. Before the floods, shutters were kept in an erect position because some repairs had to be carried out to them. The shutters were being painted on the 22nd May 1952. Suddenly the river began to rise and by the 25th of May, the rise was about 15 feet over the crest of the anicut, that is, nine feet over the shutters. It was not possible for the shutters to be tripped down and they were tripped down only by about 31st May 1952. The House will, therefore, note that for over a period of nearly nine days, shutters were not tripped down. The water which flowed over the shutters created some damage to the first apron. It was found on examination that about eleven scours had been created over the first apron and an estimate had also been sanctioned by the Superintending Engineer, the late Mr. Vepa Krishnamurthi, for a sum of nearly 82,000 rupees to carry out repairs. The damage consisted not only in scours being formed in the first apron but some damage to the retention wall also. The repairs were completed by about the 25th June 1952. I may mention at this stage that so far as the damage to the first apron is concerned and also the damage to the retention wall, no information was given to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation. The damage was noticed by the Superintending Engineer and repairs were straightaway sanctioned by him and executed. I may also point out that these repairs could not be carried out as satisfactorily as one could in an ordinary season. In the month of June, work had to be suspended or had to be disturbed twice on account of the low floods in the river. It was feared that some floods would come in the month of June itself. The work had to be done in a hurry and by the 25th of June 1952, the repairs were completed. A report was sent to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation that all damages had been repaired by the 25th June. It should also be remembered by hon. Members that the shutters which were in existence were about six feet high. At the place where the fourth set of shutters were functioning, I would like to submit it was a very deep bed of the river originally. It is said that the depth of the river was filled by sand and the level was brought up. Why I am

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particularly referring to this point is, it is that particular place where the breach had occurred. Once in 1893, when the crest of the anicut was raised from three feet to six feet, it was said that there was a crack in the body wall and it was also mentioned that there was some damage to the anicut. The Enquiry Committee which was expected to go into the question has found that there is no specific evidence to show where the damage has occurred to the anicut but that it may be surmised, however, that this damage or this breach had occurred at that particular place where the fourth shutters were situated. The shutters that were in operation in 1893 were about 3 feet in height and the ayacut that was expected to be irrigated was originally 5·80 lakhs of acres. But now the ayacut irrigated is about 11 lakhs of acres. The demand for more and more water from the ryots led the authorities to think of devices by which more water could be diverted for irrigating the lands. With that object in view, the six feet shutters were installed somewhere between the years 1923 and 1925. After the installation of these six feet shutters, it has been a regular feature that damage is occurring to the anicut, and to the four aprons that were meant to protect the anicut. A number of instances have been given by the Committee wherein, it has shown that damage has occurred after the year 1925 very often. The Committee surmises that for this damage the type of shutters which have been installed and which are now functioning is largely responsible. Of course the Committee has suggested remedies as to how the thing can be got over. I am only mentioning to the House that just behind the fourth shutters, there has been some damage for some time. Where this breach occurred, there was a scour and actually the scour was repaired in June. What happened was that between the 25th June after the repairs had been effected and the date of the breach of the anicut which is surmised to have occurred between the 6th and the 8th of September there had been no periodical inspection of the anicut by the inspecting officers. And, therefore, the scour which is mentioned as the tenth scour in the Report developed and affected the anicut. The driver of the plough and other people found that there was some trouble with the plough and so were not able to move the plough on the 3rd or 4th of September. It is said by the Committee that if the inspecting officers had taken particular care to see whether any damage had occurred they would certainly have noticed that this breach between the 6th and the 8th of September was the result of a scour which had been repaired in June. They could have also taken action in time and the whole tragedy could have been avoided. The officers not having inspected this, a trouble developed. The 4-40 p.m. plough could not be moved either on the 3rd or the 4th September and the inspecting officers found on the 6th September that the breach had occurred where the fourth set of shutters was functioning. When the breach occurred the shutters were washed away. On the ninth September when the Superintending Engineer wanted to have the breach repaired by throwing some stones and other things in the breach, four officers of the P.W.D. lost their lives.

I submit the Government have already expressed their deep sense of sorrow at the loss of these four officers while discharging their duty.

"Subsequently the breach has been closed by putting in stones and other things. On the 16th September a Committee was constituted with Mr. Venkatakrishna Ayyar, then retired Chief Engineer as Chairman with Sri Raghavan, Member, Board of Revenue and Sri Venkatachari, Chief Engineer (Irrigation), as Members of the Committee. The Committee examined witnesses both official and non-official and have also recorded evidence. A number of non-official witnesses gave evidence to the effect that the anicut was a very old one and they also said that the Madras Government provided sufficient funds for the annual repairs. When the anicut was constructed, they said, the life was fixed at hundred years. It was constructed in the year 1852. We are now in the year 1952. The life of the anicut is over. We ought therefore to construct a new anicut. Various other versions have also been put forward. All these questions were thoroughly gone into by the Committee. The Committee has come to the conclusion that there was no neglect on the part of the Government. Whatever money was required for the repairs of the anicut was provided. Every year a lakh of rupees have been provided for the repairs to the anicut. The Committee has therefore concluded that there was no reason to think that the money provided by the Government for the repairs to the anicut was inadequate. The Committee has also come to the conclusion that the repairs done to the anicut in the month of June 1952 could not be deemed to be insufficient because though there was a flood and though till about the 9th September the water was flowing over the anicut and the repaired portion, the repaired portion stood up very well.

"As regards the responsibility of the officers, the Committee has come to the conclusion that on account of the allocation of the duties among several officers, they could not understand the position properly and therefore could not fix the responsibility for the damage that occurred in the month of May. Subsequently, with regard to the breach that occurred between 6th and 8th September, the Committee has some harsh words to say about those officers responsible, the Anicut Superintendent, Junior Superintendent, the Executive Engineer and the Superintending Engineer. They have also said that it could not be said that the breach occurred on account of the negligence of the officers but it might have been due to the pressure on the 6 feet shutters which have been installed.

"Such long term remedies as are necessary are all being considered by Government. The long term remedies are the construction of a regulator with lift shutters combined with a road bridge and other things. The Government have spent over 5 lakhs on temporary repairs.

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" Sir, I may submit that when the anicut suffered the damage, not one ryot complained that he has not got his share of water for his lands. The lands were irrigated properly and there was a bumper harvest. Therefore the Government have done what all was necessary for protecting the interest of the ryots and as the report would show the Government were not at all remiss in the discharge of their duties. I have repeated these facts for the benefit of the hon. Members who might not have listened to me. This is the report I have to make about the Krishna anicut."

SRI K. RAJAGOPALA RAO :—" అధ్యక్షా, ఇప్పుడు మంత్రిగారు ఇచ్చిన స్టేటుమెంటును బట్టి కృష్ణా నది ఆనకట్ట damage report లో వున్నటువంటి విషయాలనే చదివి వెల్లడిచేశారు. ఈ రిపోర్టు ప్రభుత్వం ప్రకటించిన తర్వాత పత్రికలు, ప్రజాసంస్థలు కొంతమంది ప్రముఖులు యీ రిపోర్టుపైన అభిప్రాయాలు వెల్లడించారు. ఈ damage జోగట్టా అంతయు తెలిసింది గనుక మంత్రిగారు యిప్పుడు ఏమిచేయు చున్నారో చెప్పితే మాకు అప్పుడే యీ debate వల్ల ప్రయోజనము కలుగుతుందని మనవి చేస్తున్నాను."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Sir, what the hon. Member said and with which I entirely agree is this. When we said we would be content with a statement from the Hon. Minister, we were thinking that he would take the House into his confidence and tell us the steps taken by the Government on the recommendations made by the Committee since the tragedy occurred, namely, the maintenance of the anicut and restoring it to good working order. It is on these aspects that we required the Government to make a statement."

MR. SPEAKER :—" We can have all that in the next sitting. Whatever the hon. Member wants he can have full information from the Hon. Minister at the next sitting."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" The object of our asking for a statement from the Hon. Minister was to know what the Government are doing with regard to the anicut and the recommendations made by the Committee. We do not want to go into the history of what happened prior to the tragedy. We want to know what they are going to do hereafter so that a recurrence may not take place."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The Hon. Minister has given an assurance that everything possible is being done."

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" I already told the House that long term remedies are being considered."

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" అధ్యక్షా, debate ను గురించి నేను ఒక చిన్న suggestion చేస్తున్నాను. మంత్రిగారు మాకు ఒక symposium యిచ్చారు. కృష్ణా నది ఆనకట్ట damage ను గురించిన రిపోర్టు సభ్యులు చదువుకోలేరని, వారు చదివి దానిని ఒక shortened form లో చెప్పుతాను వినమన్నారు. నేను చెప్పు

[Sri T. Nagi Reddi] [12th December 1952

నది ఏమిటంటే, అసలు యిప్పుడు యీ రిపోర్టు వచ్చిన తర్వాత ప్రభుత్వం ఏమి చర్యలు తీసుకొంటున్నారో చెప్పితే చాలును. దానిమీద debate లో discuss చేస్తాము.''

4-50 P.M. * THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Sir, all the immediate requirements are being attended to as the river is in floods now. Further damage has been stopped and damage to crops has been prevented. Therefore we are in a safe position. As soon as possible the repairs would be undertaken. Neither the estimates nor the details of the actual repair are now ready. Probably we may have something to say when we next meet."

III.—GOVERNMENT MOTIONS—*cont.*

(2) SITUATION CREATED BY THE CYCLONE IN TANJORE AND TIRUCHIRAPPALLI DISTRICTS.

* THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move—

'*That the situation created in the Tanjore and Tiruchirappalli districts by the recent cyclone on the* 30*th November* 1952, *be taken into consideration.*'

Sir, soon after the debate on the food situation in the State, it ɔs distressing to bring to the notice of this House the situatiɔn created in the districts of Tanjore and Tiruchirappalli by an act of God, the recent cyclone. The other day the Hon. Chief Minister made a detailed statement about the damage done to these two districts and I need not repeat them now. I would only supplement what information we received subsequent to that statement.

" In the Tiruchirappalli district, apart from the loss of human lives, loss of cattle and loss to paddy crops and garden produce the details of which have already been given, we further received information that about 75 minor irrigation tanks in Alangudi taluk, 5 irrigation tanks in Tiruchirappalli taluk and the Peruvalai channel in Lalgudi taluk have breached and that they have been closed. There has been partial damage to the Taluk offices at Lalgudi and Kollathur and the office of the District Welfare Officer in Tiruchirappalli besides a number of *chavadis* in Pudukkottai division. About 15,000 private buildings were damaged. The Collector has been touring the district and arranging for immediate relief wherever necessary. I may tell the House, Sir, that the Revenue Officers both in Tanjore and Tiruchirappalli are doing their best to alleviate the distress caused by the cyclone.

" Sir, a State Cyclone Relief Committee has been constituted and the Governor has appealed for public contributions. Contributions both in kind and in cash are being received from the generous public. The President of the Republic of India, the Prime Minister and our Governor have contributed handsome donations to the State Relief Fund. The Corporation of Madras has also contributed a large amount. Private merchants and others also

APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 442-A asked by Sri K. P. Gopalan at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 12th December 1952, page 682 supra.]

(*a*) There has been no new rule or policy introduced in respect of promotions from IV and V Forms. The usual annual school examinations continue at the end of each year in these forms.

As for Form VI, in November 1949, not long after the abolition of the selection examination at a meeting of the headmasters with the Director of Public Instruction in the chair, it was recommended that the selection examination in S.S.L.C. should be revived. In March 1950, the State Advisory Board of Education favoured such revival, but expressed its desire " that headmasters should not detain too many students ". The then Director of Public Instruction recommended the acceptance of the decision of the State Advisory Board. The Board of Secondary Education (in September 1950) passed a resolution requesting the Government to revive the system of selection. This resolution was reiterated by the Board of Secondary Education at its meeting held in August 1951. The Madras City Headmasters' Association again pressed for the revival of the election examination. The Government decided to revive the selection examination in August 1951, but the then Government postponed decision and left it over for the consideration of their successors. The present Government requested the Director of Public Instruction, in July 1952, to re-examine this question and state his views. The Director of Public Instruction, in consultation with the Board of Secondary Education which met in August 1952, recommended to Government that the headmasters should have the discretion to select and present candidates who have completed satisfactorily their course of study for the S.S.L.C. examination. Their view was that, in so far as the S.S.L.C. examination does not declare a candidate to have passed or failed but provides only for a completion of the prescribed course in the forms, an examination in the VI Form also was necessary, to assess whether the candidate had made satisfactory progress. Hence, this provision was considered to be educationally sound. The Government reviewed the question and accepted the recommendation in favour of the revival of the examination in the VI Form for selection and presentation of students for the S.S.L.C. examination. A copy of the relevant Government Order (G.O. No. 2313, Education, dated 7th October 1952) is placed on the table of the House.

(*b*) Representations have been received.

Copy of G.O. Ms. No. 2313. Education, dated 7th October 1952.

[Examinations—S.S.L.C.—System of selections—Revival—Orders passed.]

Order—No. 2313, *Education, dated* 7*th October* 1952.

The Government have reviewed the question of the revival of the system of selection of students for the S.S.L.C. examination and pass the following orders :—

(i) The Government consider that the system of the selection of candidates for the S.S.L.C. Examination in March, by a written

test in the VI Form should again be introduced in the high schools in the State.

(ii) There should be detentions as a result of the annual examinations at the IV and V Form stages also.

(iii) A not-too-strict standard should be prescribed for the test held in the VI Form for the selection of candidates for the S.S.L.C. Examination as well as for promotion from IV and V Forms, so as to allow students who are not up to the required standard to make up, if possible, for their past lack of diligence. In addition to the written tests a system of external oral tests may be introduced the results of which being made to cover the deficiencies of the candidates in the written examinations.

The orders may be given effect to from the S.S.L.C. Examination for 1953.

The Director of Public Instruction is requested to propose suitable amendments to the S.S.L.C. Scheme.

APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 467 asked by Sri V. Sri Krishna at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 12th December 1952, page 693 supra.]

Romperu Drainage Scheme.

(*a*) Reasons for delay—

(1) Unseasonal floods during the working season which is only 4 or 5 months in the year.

(2) Difficulty in excavation under water, unsuitability of existing plant for the underwater and slushy type of soil, and non-availability of the required earth moving machinery and dredgers, the existing dredgers being old.

(3) Tendered rates being prohibitively high, tenders had to be negotiated to keep down the cost.

(4) Postponement and replanning of some work due to high rates quoted by the tenderers.

(5) Reductions in grant due to Ways and Means position of the State.

(*b*) At the present rate of progress it may take another three years to complete the scheme.

(*c*) There is no proposal to utilize the water for irrigation as gravity irrigation is not possible and supply is not dependable. Lift irrigation from the drain is however allowed on application by private parties where conditions are suitable.

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APPENDIX III.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 471 asked by Sri K. T. Kosalram at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 12th December 1952, page 694, supra.]

District.	*Number of Executive and Assistant Engineers who were working in 1950–51 (Districtwar).*		*Number of Executive and Assistant Engineers who are now working (Districtwar).*	
	Executive Engineer.	*Assistant Engineer.*	*Executive Engineer.*	*Assistant Engineer.*
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Srikakulam	1	2	1	1
Visakhapatnam	..	3	..	2
East Godavari	1	2	..	1
West Godavari	..	1	1	1
Krishna	..	1	..	1
Guntur	1	1	..	1
Nellore	..	3	..	2
Chittoor	1	2	1 }	3
Cuddapah	..	1	.. }	
Kurnool	..	1	.. }	
Salem	..	1	.. }	
Chingleput	1	2	1	1
North Arcot	..	2	..	1
South Arcot	..	1	..	1
Madurai	1	1	1	1
Tanjore	..	..	.. }	1
Tiruchirappalli	..	2	.. }	
Tirunelveli	..	2	..	1
Ramanathapuram ..	1	4	..	3
South Kanara	..	..	..	1
Total ..	7	32	5	22

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தமிழ்நாடு சட்டமன்றப் பேரவை
TAMIL NADU LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

வாய்மையே வெல்லும்
TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS